

UT Martin's Campus

Volume XLVII, Winter/Spring 2009

Time

A close-up portrait of Jane Kao, a woman with short, dark, wavy hair and bangs. She is smiling warmly at the camera. She is wearing a white, textured button-down shirt, a black necklace with a circular pendant, and large hoop earrings. The background is softly blurred, showing greenery and a building.

**Jane Kao treats the
smallest patients
with great care.**

Chancellor's Corner



Dr. Thomas Rakes
UT Martin Chancellor

“We are doing our best to make strategic decisions ... during a challenging budget interval. ... We began this process by reviewing and maximizing energy and conservation steps including adjusting temperature, lighting, space utilization, and improving recycling.”

Fall literally blew in bringing a record enrollment of 7,578 for a 5.6% increase over 2007.

UT Martin reported the largest percentage increase in enrollment among public four-year institutions in Tennessee. We were equally pleased to report a record of 1,342 first-time freshmen, up 5.1% from the previous year, representing the most academically capable entering class based on record high school grade-point average and composite ACT score. Our ACT average of 22.4 was above both state and national averages.

A majority of the enrollment increase was in our extended-campus centers in Jackson, Parsons, Ripley, and Selmer in addition to a double-digit increase in dual/concurrent and online enrollments. We anticipate moving into the new campus location in Parsons this winter and recently broke ground for an expansion of the McNairy County/Selmer Center.

This fall, UT Martin began the year with a 5.8% cut in state allocations followed by a 3.5% mid-year rescission announced in October. We have also been instructed to plan for a possible additional 3-7% reduction in our 2009-2010 appropriations budget. We began this process by reviewing and maximizing energy and conservation steps, including adjusting temperature, lighting, space utilization, and improving recycling. These cuts have also affected capacity involving technology, equipment, staffing, travel, outreach and research. Unless sales tax revenue increases in the coming months, it may be necessary to reduce program and course offerings.

We are taking a campus-wide view concerning our approach to gathering data and input as we begin to make strategic decisions about potential changes involving our organizational structure, providing programs and services and maximizing resources for on- and off-campus operations. Individual division and special task force groups are involved, as well as employee and student groups, and are being asked to provide suggestions. We are currently considering a number of recommendations.

On a positive note, in July, faculty and staff moved back into a newly renovated building for the College of Business and Public Affairs. In August, more than 400 students moved into phase two of University Village apartment-style housing. Construction is under way for the Brehm Hall expansion, and a groundbreaking ceremony marking the construction of a new Student Recreation Center was held as part of our homecoming activities.

I am pleased to report that UT Martin leads the UT system in percentage of dollars raised toward its campaign goal in the Campaign for Tennessee. To date, \$36,368,031 (91%) has been raised toward the \$40,000,000 goal. These gifts include support for academic and athletic programs, scholarships, student life and campus enhancement and enrichment. Private support will be an increasingly important avenue to address campus needs during tight budget times.

From Skyhawk fans to visiting college and high-school groups, we have been receiving rave reviews about the new playing surface and overall look of Hardy Graham Stadium. As of this writing, attendance at home football games is up substantially, and student athletes in a number of our sports are having competitive seasons.

We are doing our best to make strategic decisions that will enable us to preserve our mission-linked, successful programs and services during a challenging budget interval. By providing abundant opportunities for comment and by using a strategic, data-driven approach, we can make decisions that enable UT Martin to move forward on a number of fronts. Your input and understanding during the next several months, and perhaps years, will go a long way toward ensuring we maintain our momentum. Thank you for your participation and continuing support of a viable, value-rich experience for our students. **UTM**

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UT Martin's Campus Scene

Volume XLVII, Winter/Spring 2009

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A Heart for Children

By Bud Grimes

“Congenital heart disease is the most common birth defect of all birth defects, and it affects every 8 per 1,000 live births.”

IF IT'S POSSIBLE THAT SOMETHING GOOD CAN COME FROM A TRAGEDY, THEN DR. Jane Kao's ('85) STORY IS ONE TO CONSIDER. A summer babysitting job in her pre-teenager years found her caring for a 3-year-old boy suffering from leukemia. The boy died several years later, inspiring Kao then to “someday find a way to help children with chronic illnesses.” Today, the successful pediatric cardiologist brings hope and healing to children and their families coping with serious illnesses. Her passion for life and personal humility overshadow her award-winning success in the medical profession.

Kao was raised in a UT family. Her father, Dr. George Kao, is a UT Martin professor emeritus of political science, and her mother, Janfen, was a reference library assistant at the university's Paul Meek Library. Her brother, David, earned his industrial engineering degree from UT

Knoxville in 1993. She describes her parents as “exemplary role models” both in her personal and professional life. “They really instilled an impeccable work ethic in me,” she said. “And it’s really taught me that if I work hard and set my goals high, I can achieve anything.”

Although her medical training and career have taken her to large cities, she still draws on her small-town upbringing. “I think growing up in Martin has kept me grounded, and it’s provided me with a sense of values and compassion that has created an essential foundation in my medical practice,” she said. Her undergraduate years brought similar experiences in that “it (the university) was like just being part of a large family.”

Faculty mentors included Drs. Charles Harding and S.K. Airee from the Department of Chemistry and Paul Sharma from the Department of Biological Sciences. She also recalled Dr. Nancy Hinds, her freshman chemistry professor, who convinced her that “females can go into the sciences and into the chemistry profession.” She also credited Hinds for creating a strong, basic chemistry background that helped prepare her for biochemistry classes in medical school.

Hinds, a UT Martin assistant professor of chemistry, said that Kao excelled in chemistry. “From the first day, she understood the importance of chemistry to her career goals and she diligently applied herself to mastering the subject,” Hinds said. “These same characteristics have undoubtedly been good ones as she studied medicine and became a master in her field of medicine.”

Kao’s third year of medical school was her initial exposure to pediatrics and a defining moment in her medical education. “That experience reinforced my passion for pediatrics and in working with children,” she said. After earning her medical degree in 1989, Kao pursued her residency at the Baylor College of Medicine and Texas Children’s Hospital in Houston, Texas, which is the largest pediatrics residency program in the country. “It is there that I received my initial exposure to cardiology. They have a very strong and large-volume cardiology program,” said Kao, who at that time was also considering a specialty in oncology.

“It was in my second year of pediatric residency that I made a decision to pursue pediatric cardiology,” she said. “I witnessed the dramatic impact of surgical intervention in these cardiac patients. It was such a night-and-day difference in a child who arrived at the hospital critically ill and in congestive heart failure, and at the time of discharge they were active and playing. That feeling of immediate accomplishment was vital in my decision to dedicate my career to pediatric cardiology.”

Three years later, she went to UCLA for a pediatric cardiology fellowship. It was during the third year of her fellowship that she began to explore where she wanted to practice. She was recruited to Dallas in 1995 and then later established her own private practice, the Heart Center for Children. In her practice, she cares for children who have congenital heart defects – actual birth defects. “And most people don’t know this, but congenital heart disease is the most common birth defect of all birth defects, and it affects every 8 per 1,000 live births,” she said.



Kao has special expertise in fetal cardiology in which she diagnoses heart lesions before an infant is born. She counsels parents 18 to 22 weeks prenatally after performing a special ultrasound on the fetus. After she diagnoses a heart defect in the fetus, she can then counsel the parents whether the child will require one or more surgeries immediately after birth, “or ... (in less serious cases), I reassure them that the child is going to be fine and won’t require surgery.” In more difficult cases, she at times has to break the news that a child may not survive.

In a typical day, she evaluates children for a variety of heart-related problems. “I also round on patients in the hospital and manage the children after heart surgery and transition them as they’re recovering from heart surgery.” She also performs intraoperative sonograms during open-heart surgery and works closely with the surgeon in assessing the status of the surgical repair.

Some of Dr. Jane Kao’s faculty mentors posed with her during recent Homecoming activities on the UT Martin campus. With her are pictured, from left, Drs. Paul Sharma, Charles Harding, S.K. Airee and Ted Mosch.

Kao

notes that prenatal visits often involve bad news. At this point, the obstetrician has likely spotted a problem, which statistically indicates “between 50 to 80 percent of the time that there is something wrong with the baby’s heart.” She acknowledges that the work can be extremely stressful. “Families express so many types of emotion to me, whether it’s fear, anger or sadness,” she said. “I try to really maintain a sense of objectivity when I talk to these families, but I certainly feel their pain.

“I have to keep in mind that for every parent that I have to relate that there’s something wrong with their child’s heart, there are hundreds of other parents that I tell them their child’s heart is normal. I therefore keep focused on the fact that there are a lot of children that do well and live particularly healthy and normal lives.”

Typical workdays are hectic in that Kao has several clinic locations, so she often begins the day making sure that she’s headed to the correct location. (She laughed, remembering that she has started several days at the wrong clinic.) She arrives at work about 7:30 a.m. and spends the first hour making patient rounds. She starts her office hours at 8:30 and sees a new patient every half hour, performing pediatric ultrasounds as needed to see if heart problems exist in her young patients. This continues until 5 p.m., and if there are any breaks, she goes back to the hospital to check on the status of her patients.

Throughout the day, she is called to surgery and has to make a quick change into scrubs to perform intraoperative ultrasounds. She also takes calls from pediatricians who pose questions about their patients. “I’m constantly on the phone in between patients, calling pediatricians or them calling me, and answering their questions on how to manage a child,” she said. “Sometimes these pediatricians are from out of town. They’re from rural areas, and they don’t have accessibility to specialists.” She also takes calls from parents who are concerned about their child, and she consults with these parents by phone and determines whether they need to have an office visit.

Besides these responsibilities, Kao also manages her practice, which involves everything from keeping equipment up to date to meeting the needs of 10 employees. She usually leaves the office between 6 and 7, and then she and her associate head to other hospitals to interpret ultrasounds before going home.

But, the day isn’t always over. If she’s on call, which occurs every other week, her beeper brings calls from parents and doctors as babies are born with suspected heart problems.

Trips to the hospital in the middle of the night then become part of the workday. Total cases in any given day can total 25, and nothing is routine.

Even though cases have similarities, several specific cases stand out. One involved a 10-year-old Mexican girl who had been blue (cyanotic) all

of her life, which is a symptom of a heart lesion. No one in Mexico had successfully diagnosed her problem, but after a foster family in Austin, Texas, took the child in, Kao received a call from the family and accepted the girl as a charity patient. Kao diagnosed her with a severe heart lesion, but this determination came late. “She was really past the point of being operable and in her last stages of life,” Kao said. A local hospital agreed to perform an experimental operation to relieve the symptoms of the girl’s condition, and she made an initial improvement.

The girl eventually went back to Mexico, and when she returned a year later to see Kao, the girl showed further improvement. She brought a family photo, and a simple note on the back said, “thank you,” a gesture that greatly touched Kao. About four months later, Kao learned that the girl had died in Mexico, “But it made me realize ... that we can make a difference in the lives of so many children around the world if only they had accessibility to health care.” This experience has inspired Kao to dedicate some of her time to mission work in other countries over the next several years.

Kao, a practicing Catholic, said that “faith plays an extremely vital role in my life,” and this faith has practical applications for her patients and for herself. When medical and surgical treatments are maximized, she often finds herself telling families, “It’s in somebody else’s hands now.” From her view, she said that physicians often do all that they can for a child, and in the end, they can’t explain why the child isn’t getting any better. “This is an extremely humbling experience,” Kao said, adding, “and we at times have to rely on our faith in another higher being to provide the fate for these patients.”

The good news is that innovations in her specialty are coming quickly. During the next few years, Kao said that new, minimally invasive techniques will help patients avoid open-heart surgery to repair holes in the heart, open valves, replace valves and correct other problems. Related benefits will be shorter hospital stays and less stress on the heart. “I’m learning something every day, not only from my peers, but from my patients,” she said.

In October, Kao traveled to Martin to accept the university’s Outstanding Alumni Award during the 2008 Homecoming celebration. In true form, she gave credit for her success to others and expressed humility for what she does. Her words rekindle the memory of the young leukemia patient whom she cared for many years ago. His life, cut tragically short by illness, inspired Jane Kao to treat chronically ill children and bring hope to families in their darkest hour of need. **UTM**

When she’s done all that she can do, she often tells families, “It’s in somebody else’s hands now.”



TAKING IT ONE STEP FURTHER



By Rita Mitchell

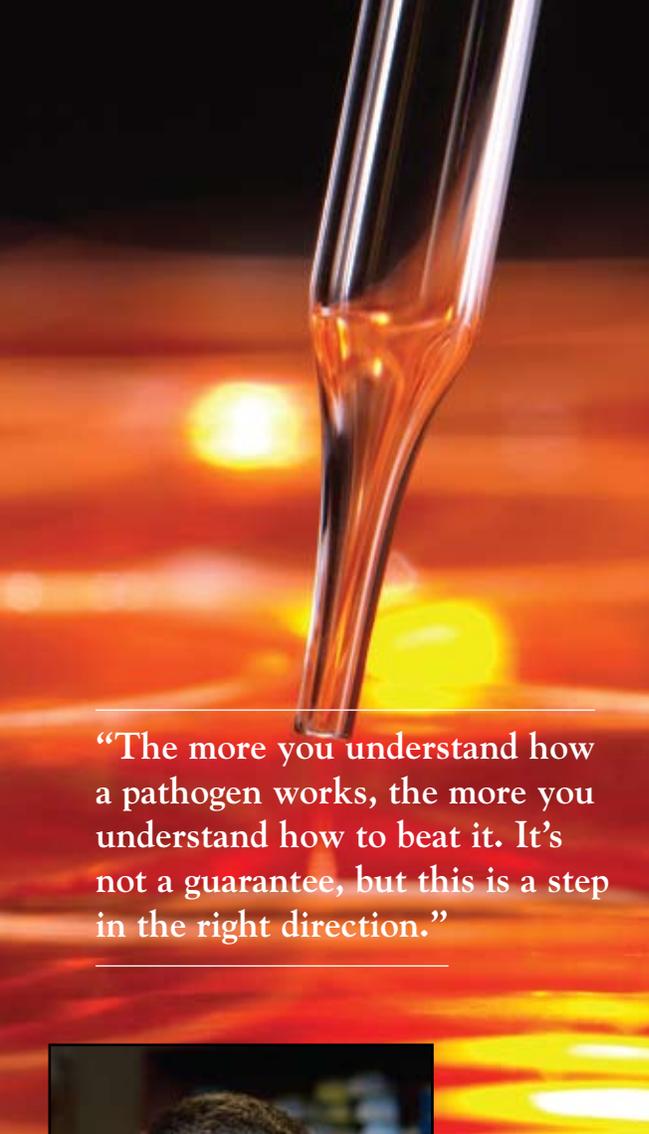
BEN JORGE AND DR. JAMES SMART ARE INVOLVED IN GENETIC RESEARCH THAT COULD FAVORABLY IMPACT AGRICULTURE IN THIS REGION. The pair genetically engineered a strain of *E. coli* to produce an *Agrobacterium tumefaciens* protein, and continuing research may lead to increased yields for crops such as corn and soybeans.

The research and a Gordon Research conference presentation by Smart and Jorge were funded by a private gift, the William and Roberta Blankenship College of Engineering and Natural Sciences Research Endowment. Funding was also provided by the Department of Biological Sciences and a Faculty Research and Development Award from the Office of Research, Grants and Contracts.

The project is part of Smart's overall philosophy to include research in classes and labs.

Smart is a University of Tennessee at Martin assistant professor of biology. Jorge, of Martin, is a Rhodes College graduate, who enrolled at UT Martin in 2006 to complete prerequisites for a neurobiology graduate program he hopes to enter in 2009. His career goal is to become a neuroscientist. Currently, Jorge is continuing the research and is a UT Martin adjunct instructor for anatomy and physiology labs.

Both Smart and Jorge see the research experience he is receiving as a critical component of his total educational preparation.



“The more you understand how a pathogen works, the more you understand how to beat it. It’s not a guarantee, but this is a step in the right direction.”



Ben Jorge



Dr. James Smart

“I really think that the role of college is not so much just to prepare you for any job, because no matter how long you’re in school, you’re never going to get every skill set required to get a job. There’s always going to be on-the-job training,” said Jorge. “I think schools should teach students to integrate the knowledge they acquire in their classes and to think critically and creatively to solve problems. Research is the best opportunity I can think of to help students develop those skills and put them into action.”

Smart agrees and includes group exercises in his lab classes to give all biology students a taste of research. And then sometimes he sees in students what he saw in Jorge – someone who could benefit from extensive research experience. It is because of students such as Jorge that Smart opts to teach an undergraduate research class each semester. It’s more work than another lower-level course he might choose, but also more rewarding.

“You’re not very far down the road in research when your first problem comes up, and you’ve got to find a solution. I wouldn’t say every student out there ought to go through that, but, for the top students, it’s critical.”

Smart said the students involved are not the only ones who benefit. As in the research with Jorge, he said, “It’s my question, too. It’s a question that both the student and I look at, so I’m satisfying my own curiosity. For me, the biggest bang of it has always been when you’re right on the edge, you’re working with something that’s cutting edge, and it’s not a ‘cooked up’ lab exercise. You’re the first person ever in recorded history to know that outcome. It might be some tiny little corner of science, but you’re still the first.”

He added, “To me, that’s always been the fun of science. You’re the first person in recorded history to know something, and it’s fun to infect people with that ... and watch them have that fun.”

Explaining their research project, Smart said, “You can fit what we did under the general term of genetic engineering. And, like any engineering problem, you structure your solution to fit the problem.”

Smart and Jorge took the gene from *A. tumefaciens*, and put it into *E. coli* to “fool” the *E. coli* into making an *A. tumefaciens* protein. The protein that they produced regulates heme expression in *A. tumefaciens* — a pathogen — that causes crown galls or tumors on plants and reduces production.

“If you can figure out how that works, then you might be able to figure out a way to kill the pathogen” in affected plants. Smart added, “The more you understand how a pathogen works, the more you understand how to beat it. It’s not a guarantee, but this is a step in the right direction.”

Smart said the outcome might be “some type of pesticide, or a way to make genetically modified crops that would be resistant to this pathogen or would provide knowledge of some kind of chemical agent that could treat crops to make them resistant to this bacteria” and improve yield.

“We’re at the very beginning stages, so it’s hard to even speculate until we know more about how the bacteria works,” said Jorge.

Smart added, “Once we know how this gene works, then, I’d team up with someone who was actually into agricultural pathogens ..., but that is many projects down the road.”

As for Jorge’s future, Smart explained the leap between neuroscience and what he’s doing now. “*E. coli* is the bacteria we did our work in. Everybody uses *E. coli*. It’s the workhorse of biology. So the skills that he’s learning now will directly map onto whatever he wants to do.”

“It’s not really just about the technical skills that I’m learning as a result of this project as much as it is the thinking skills,” said Jorge. **UTM**



Will the Earth Shake Again?

By Bud Grimes

THE VIEW FROM FISH GAP HILL IN OBION COUNTY, TENN., OFFERS A POSTCARD-LIKE PERSPECTIVE OF THE UPPER REELFOOT LAKE BASIN. The lake rests quietly near the Mississippi River among acres of farmland that spread across Western Kentucky and Northwest Tennessee. The bluff overlooks the eastern-most portion of the Mississippi River floodplain. Hidden beneath the surface of this tranquil setting is the power to alter life in this region in a way not witnessed in modern times. A series of earthquakes in 1811-1812 formed Reelfoot Lake and changed the region's landscape. Left for current and future generations to consider is, "Could it happen again?"

Experts agree that it's not so much a question if such an event will happen, but when.

Experts agree that it's not so much a question if such an event will happen, but when. And when a major earthquake occurs in the eastern United States, likely in the New Madrid Seismic Zone, preparation will determine how the region fares in the quake's aftermath. That's the message of Dr. Stan Dunagan ('93, UTK '98), UT Martin assistant professor of geology.

Dunagan sometimes takes students to Fish Gap Hill where he not only teaches but also shows them about earthquakes. On this clear August day, he explains where portions of the bluff gave way under the rolling force of the quakes. Back in his geology classroom, he uses simple illustrations to explain a complex set of actions that lead to earthquakes. In summary, rocks are under pressure, and if enough

pressure or force is applied, they will eventually crack, much like bending a pencil, he says. He demonstrates to his classes by showing that you can apply force and bend the pencil—apply enough force, and the pencil will crack.

"Similarly, rocks act that way when enough force is placed on them. Just like that pencil will break, the rocks will eventually break," he said. "And when you have rocks break, they release energy, and that break, that release of energy—that's your earthquake."

The good news is that earthquakes come in all different sizes. A recent example is a magnitude 5.2 earthquake that occurred in the early morning hours of April 18, 2008, in Southern Illinois. The quake was felt in several states, including West



Dr. Stan Dunagan

Tennessee, and was considered moderate, he said. The epicenter was actually located in the Wabash Valley Seismic Zone and caused relatively little damage. The quakes that formed Reelfoot Lake were probably in the 7.7 range, so fortunately, the “big ones” don’t happen as often.

But, earthquakes are occurring, whether people feel them or not. In fact, Dunagan said, the New Madrid Seismic Zone, that includes West Tennessee, has the greatest amount of seismic activity and the greatest potential for large quakes in the eastern United States. “Interestingly, East Tennessee is second (the East Tennessee Seismic Zone), he said. “Now, they don’t have big earthquakes, but they have lots of very small earthquakes, magnitude typically less than 2.0, but there are lots of faults in East Tennessee. . . .” To support his point, he referred to the U.S. Geological Survey Web site <http://www.usgs.gov/> that recorded 25 earthquakes from March to July 2008 in East Tennessee, a

fact probably surprising to many. Based on history and available geologic information, Middle Tennessee residents can rest the easiest with the smallest probability of a large-magnitude quake.

Of greater concern is that West Tennessee, more than any area of the state, faces significant consequences from a large-magnitude quake. “Geologists view the New Madrid Seismic Zone as one that’s low probability but high consequences,” Dunagan said. “In other words, if there is an earthquake, there is a chance that it could be a big one.”

The U.S. Geological Survey and the University of Memphis maintain the Center for Earthquake Research and Information at the Memphis campus. The center has released numbers for the probability of an earthquake measuring 7.7, which is comparable to the 1811-1812 quakes that formed Reelfoot Lake. “If you have a magnitude 7.7, the probability of an earthquake of that magnitude occurring over the next 50 years is 7 to 10 percent,” Dunagan said. “Now, the good news is that the probability is a little lower today than what we might have been talking about 10 to 15 years ago, largely because there’s been a little bit more research.”

As for the location of greatest damage if such a quake occurred, Dunagan said that it depends. He drew the shape of the New Madrid Seismic Zone as a crooked S shape that encompasses an area from the Missouri Bootheel and Western Kentucky winding south to Memphis. The scope of damage will be determined by where the earthquake occurs along the fault, he said, adding, “And it’s certainly possible that it occurs along faults that we already have identified, but there may be additional faults that we’re not aware of that it could occur along.

“Memphis is certainly a major concern among various municipal entities, because it’s the largest city in this area and for the important transportation routes that run through that area.” Highlighting the concern, he noted that Memphis Light, Gas and Water — in cooperation with the National Science Foundation, the Army Corps of Engineers and University of Memphis researchers — recently traveled along the Mississippi River performing seismic surveys to locate faults and to assess the seismic potential.

But, persons in major seismic zones aren’t the only ones who should be concerned about major earthquakes. “Most of West Tennessee, if there’s a large earthquake, will have significant damage,” he said, adding, “There’s lots of soft, sandy sediment beneath us. That blesses us with great high-quality water resources, but in terms of earthquakes, that’s not where you want to be.”

“There’s lots of soft, sandy sediment beneath us. That blesses us with great high-quality water resources, but in terms of earthquakes, that’s not where you want to be.”

The view from Fish Gap Hill in Obion County, Tenn., offers a postcard-like perspective of the upper Reelfoot Lake basin.

The important work of monitoring seismic activity is largely coordinated through the U.S. Geological Survey and through several consortiums. UT Martin, which has a seismic station, is part of a larger seismic network that includes St. Louis University and the University of Memphis center. Another project called EarthScope aims to gradually move GPS and seismic stations across the country to better understand the earth's structure in a way that might help better identify the potential for earthquake hazards. To date, almost 700 seismic and more than 900 GPS instruments have been deployed starting in the western United States and Alaska, Dunagan said. He added that portable instruments should be moved into Tennessee beginning in 2011 for West Tennessee and 2012 for Middle and East Tennessee.

While history might help to identify a pattern that could predict a major quake, Dunagan suggests "not to get bogged down" with these details. "There will be an earthquake one day, and the question is, 'Are you prepared when it happens?' And, there are lots of things that you can do to get prepared and to really mitigate any potential losses that there might be, whether it's injuries, loss of life or property losses," he added.

While Dunagan said that many Tennesseans would cite a tornado or flood as the most likely natural event or hazard to occur, preparations for these calamities work equally well for earthquake preparedness. Such steps are keys to short- and long-term survival following a catastrophic earthquake.

His core recommendations include: have a family emergency plan, have supplies available (water, food, medication), know how to turn off utilities and have a communication plan. Specifically for earthquakes, he's a big proponent of earthquake insurance.

He also recommends that people secure appliances, bookshelves and large furniture. "Most injuries are not due to shaking. Most injuries are due to things hitting people and falling on people in an earthquake," he said. "Everyone can take an L-bracket and screw it to a piece of furniture and back into the wall. If someone has a gas appliance, it needs to be secured."

For people building new homes, they might do well to consider some steps that his family took in constructing a new home near Paris, Tenn. He had corner bracing added when the house was being framed, as well as some additional horizontal blocking and bracing. He also had the top wooden structure bolted to the basement in multiple places. "The last thing you want, if you have some serious shaking, is one part of your house go one way and the other go the other direction. And if it's not firmly tied on, that will certainly occur," he said.

Such preparations seem far removed as visitors take in the scenery from atop Fish Gap Hill. However, this panoramic view of Reelfoot Lake reminds visitors what happened when the earth shook in the early 1800s. Stan Dunagan's advice offers a sobering reminder to be prepared when the earth shakes again. **UTM**

Earthquake Safety Tips

In a building: move against an interior wall and protect your head. Do not use the elevators. Stay indoors.

Outdoors: move to a clear area, away from trees, signs, buildings or electrical wires or poles.

Driving: pull over and stop, away from overpasses or power lines. Stay inside the vehicle.

Public area: move away from display shelves.

Kitchen: move away from the appliances and overhead cupboards.

Stadium or theater: stay in your seat and protect your head.

2007 Los Angeles Fire Department Emergency Preparedness book.

...“When you have rocks break, they release energy ... that’s your earthquake.”

Earthquake Resources

According to FEMA (www.fema.gov/hazard/earthquake/index.shtm)

What to do before an earthquake

www.fema.gov/hazard/earthquake/eq_before.shtm

What to do during an earthquake

www.fema.gov/hazard/earthquake/eq_during.shtm

What to do after an earthquake

www.fema.gov/hazard/earthquake/eq_after.shtm

An Appetite for GROWTH

By Rita Mitchell

WHEN YOU ASK THEM ABOUT THEIR CAREERS, TWINS WES AND CHES JACKSON ARE QUICK TO POINT OUT THAT NO ONE REALLY GRADUATES FROM COLLEGE AND ASPIRES TO SELL HOT DOGS. But in 1982, with UT Martin business degrees in hand, that's exactly what they sold along with other Reelfoot Packing Co. products. Their father, Billy Joe, had worked for the Union City, Tenn., Reelfoot plant most of his career, and they naturally gravitated there for jobs in high school and to help finance their college educations.

That early experience in the food industry made indelible marks on the Obion County natives, who spent the first 25 years of their careers apart and advancing in the corporate food industry. Early on, it was their interest in sales that earned them top management positions with companies such as Sara Lee Corp. and Con Agra Foods. (Wes was president of Sara Lee Dinner Group in Cincinnati, and Ches was vice president/customer development for Con Agra Foods in Tampa, Fla.) More recently, it was their entrepreneurial bent that led Wes in 2004 to co-found and become president and chief executive officer of Monogram Food Solutions in Memphis and Ches to join him two years later as president of Monogram Meat Snacks division.

"Once we got into the business, I think both of us would tell you we figured out that sales, and sales in the meat business, was a pretty good gig,"

said Ches. "I don't think either one of us has ever considered leaving the food business once we got into it."

And, they value not only their business degrees at UT Martin that got them started, but their years of experience in the corporate world. Speaking of UT Martin's business department, Ches said, "I believed then and (believe) today that it has a very fine academic curriculum." Wes noted, "We were proud of the education and felt like, from a business school perspective, that we were ready to conquer the world." However, he added, "If it were not for the experience gained working in a large corporate environment, then it would make it very difficult to do what we're doing."

The brothers and the Monogram management team, including Karl Schledwitz, UT graduate ('74) and UT Board of Trustee member, have taken

the company in a myriad of exciting directions, especially in the area of food product licensing. Monogram now has licensing agreements with Jeff Foxworthy and NASCAR for varieties of meat snacks and Emeril Lagasse for a line of gourmet coffees. Meat and meat snacks – beef jerky, smoked sausages, hot dogs, bacon and sandwich meats – are produced in the company’s Chandler, Minn., manufacturing plant. Another plant in Muncie, Ind., currently being acquired, produces breaded meat patties and corn dogs. Monogram also has well-known Mid-South brands, King Cotton and Circle B meats, in its family of products. The company acquired the meat snacks division and the King Cotton and Circle B brands from Sara Lee. Extending its reach, Monogram also produces meats and meat snacks as private labels for several national companies.

Licensing continues to be one of the most exciting aspects of Monogram’s business. The company’s business development strategies often begin with “what if?” Wes said, “We make most of our own products in our manufacturing facility. We try to find brands that have equity that complements our production capabilities.” As an example, he explained, it seemed like a natural for Jeff Foxworthy to have a line of beef jerky and meat snacks that Monogram markets as its own brand and pays Foxworthy a royalty. The same applies for the NASCAR line of products. A partner in Seattle produces the gourmet coffee that is aptly dubbed for Emeril Lagasse.

The pair has similar characteristics and business acumen, but they opt for a “divide and conquer” approach using specific strengths to help lead the organization. “In a small company where resources are always at a premium, there’s not a lot of room for redundancy, so you figure out who’s going to be in charge of what, and you run with it,” said Ches. He terms himself the day-to-day operations chief, focusing more of his energy on execution and continuous improvement, while Wes heads up the King Cotton and Circle B brands and spearheads business development “trying to land the next deal.”

“It’s certainly not split between Wes and me,” said Ches. “There’s a lot of intellectual horsepower here that adds value.” Wes added, “We are so fortunate to have such a great group of hard-working, talented people,” many of whom worked with the brothers earlier in their careers. The management

team is made up of people who are exercising their entrepreneurial instincts. “The reality is if you don’t have it (entrepreneurial spirit), you wouldn’t be here,” said Wes. “It’s just a different satisfaction when you’re working for a private organization ... and the decisions you make as a team clearly impact a lot of people’s lives more closely than they do in corporate America.”

Wes and Ches, who were inseparable from childhood through college, are glad to be working together again. They also like living close to their father, Billy Joe, and mother, Evelyn. And, they enjoy each other’s families. Ches and wife, Susan, are the parents of two sons, 18-year-old Palmer and seven-year-old Hamilton, and 16-year-old daughter, Kelsey. Wes and wife, Suzanne, have a nine-year-old son, Cole, and three-year-old twins, daughter, Sidney and son, Tate.

Looking to the future, both agree Monogram Food Solutions is “where we want to be.” In the early stages, Wes explained, “We were talking with NASCAR (officials), with Emeril Lagasse and with Jeff Foxworthy simultaneously. I would say the goal was at the time if we could get any one of these licensing deals, then that would be validity; it would be a good start to our business. As it turned out, not only did we get one of them, we got all three. Those moments for me were very exciting, kind of defining moments, because I knew that the risk we had taken would pay off.”

“If you look at the brands and what we’ve got in manufacturing ready to go to market ... we think we’re ahead of where we need to be,” Ches said and added, “We’ve got two to three years of really good, hard work to make sure these brands deliver what we think they should. And there’s tons of growth in the next two to three years.

“Today, we have a plateful. We’re just making sure we execute very well against what we’ve already put in place,” said Ches. “We want to take what we’ve got and build it into a really solid, long-term national business, and then we will plug in and bolt on where it’s a strategic fit. We have an appetite for growth.” **UTM**

Monogram now has licensing agreements with Jeff Foxworthy and NASCAR for varieties of meat snacks and Emeril Lagasse for a line of gourmet coffees.



“Those moments for me were very exciting, kind of defining moments, because I knew that the risk we had taken would pay off.”

Sights Set on TEAM USA



Nick Massey literally has his “sights” set on becoming a member of TEAM USA – the shooting sports team that competes in the Olympics. Massey, a UT Martin senior business management major, is a Bolivar High School graduate, who now calls Jackson home.

He recently returned from the USA Fall Selection Match in Colorado Springs, Colo., where he competed against the nation’s best shooters for an immediate placement on TEAM USA and a spot to compete in the world championships. “The fall selection match is one of the two biggest competitions you can shoot in, in the U.S.” said Massey. “The other is the National Olympics, both of which are equal in importance.”

It was the second time he has competed in Colorado Springs. In 2007, he qualified for the National Junior Olympics and shot in that competition last fall. There, he tried competing for a spot on the National Development Team, which is the stepping stone to making the national team. Being

on the development team allows an athlete to train with and for TEAM USA and shoot in international competitions, to get valuable competition experience. “This is how they train younger athletes to make the national team.”

While he did not qualify for the National Development Team this year, he is undaunted.

“It was a high-stakes competition. I was competing against the athletes who represented the United States in Beijing (for the 2008 Olympics). Even though

they were on the Olympic team, they still have to qualify each year,” he said.

Massey said he received recognition from the TEAM USA coach during the recent competition. “He said it generally takes six years to develop an Olympian. He

watched me shoot and thought I was well ahead of the curve.” Massey added, “I had several members from TEAM USA tell me the same thing.”

Massey’s love of shooting began as a five-year-old, learning from his father, Mike Massey, of Jackson, and grandfather, Shelby Massey, of Collierville. “When I was growing up, I enjoyed deer and turkey hunting. When I was about 12 or 13, I fell in love with shotgun shooting and ‘wing shooting’ — shooting birds. That’s when I started duck hunting and when my love for shooting a shotgun took off.”

Massey still is a deer hunter and an avid outdoorsman, “but my preference is shooting birds. It just adds a little more of a challenge because they’re moving targets.”

The UT Martin clay target team has provided an extension of Massey’s love of shooting sports. “I think it’s great,” he said of the team that formed two years ago. “We brought in five or six freshmen this year. It’s good for the university.” He agrees with Coach Steve Vaughn and team adviser Dr. Phil Young that the team has recruiting potential for the university because clay target shooting is a very popular and rapidly growing sport with middle and high school-age boys and girls around the country. Tennessee, through the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, is actually leading the nation in developing youth clay target shooting sports.

“A shotgun shooting sports program teaches young athletes responsibility, most of all; and they also get to compete in a college-level sport.” Also, Massey noted that some competitions award collegiate scholarships to high-school shooters.

Massey thinks camaraderie is a special part of the team and the competitions. “I try to help young athletes,” he said. Making friends and “trying to help people better their shooting abilities” are two benefits he gets from the sport.

Massey is willing to do what it takes. “I couldn’t do this without the support of family, Coach Vaughn and the university, which drives me to put in the time, effort and dedication that it takes to excel,” he said. “My main goal in shooting is to acquire a spot on TEAM USA.”

“I am very proud of Nick. He is showing tremendous dedication and commitment in his quest to make TEAM USA. He is one of our hardest-working athletes, and that drive will take him far in life,” said Vaughn. **UTM**

“I was competing against the athletes who represented the United States in Beijing.”

Hudson Named Candidate for John R. Wooden Award

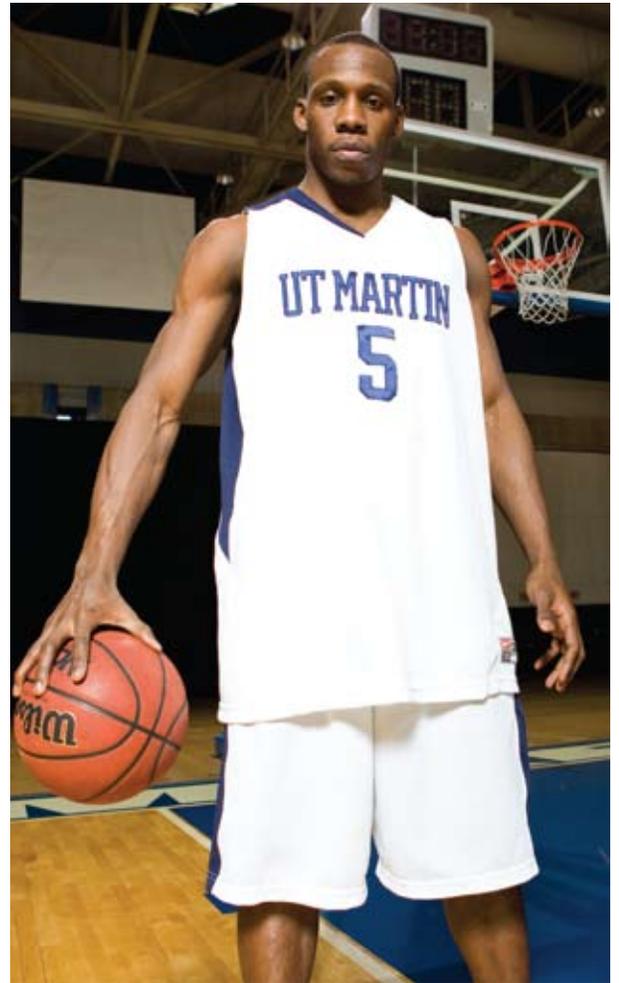
Lester Hudson, a senior guard at UT Martin, is one of 50 preseason candidates for the 2008-09 John R. Wooden Award All-American Team and Player of the Year trophy.

“Lester Hudson is certainly to be commended for this nomination,” said Bret Campbell, the head coach at UT Martin. “We are extremely excited Lester is on this list.”

Hudson was named to CollegeHoops.net First Team Mid-Major All-America team last month. He was also named the Ohio Valley Conference 2008-09 Preseason Player of the Year. Arguably, Hudson had the greatest single season in the history of the UT Martin basketball program in 2007-08. The 6-2, 190-pound Memphis native finished his first NCAA season ranked in the Top 10 nationally in points per game (25.7 – 4th), steals (2.8 – 4th) and three-pointers made per game (3.8 – 10th). Hudson also became the first Division I men’s basketball player to record a quadruple-double in a game when he put up a line of 25 points, 12 rebounds, 10 assists and 10 steals in UT Martin’s 116-74 win over Central Baptist on Nov. 13.

Hudson capped off his spectacular season by being named OVC Player of the Year, All-OVC First Team and All-OVC Newcomer. He was named Associated Press Honorable Mention All-American and a second team All-American by CollegeHoops.net. He is the first UT Martin basketball player ever to garner Division I All-American status, as well as being the first Skyhawk to win OVC Player of the Year honors.

The list of candidates for the Wooden Award is composed of 50 student-athletes who, based on last year’s individual performance and team records, are the early frontrunners for college basketball’s most prestigious honor. **UTM**



H.K. Grantham Field in Hardy M. Graham Stadium on the UT Martin campus received a major facelift during the offseason when a synthetic FieldTurf surface was installed. The surface is made of polyester fibers filled with sand and cryogenic rubber granules. Installation began May 1, by Precision Sports Fields and Hawkins Development both out of Nashville. Together both companies installed the \$750,000 FieldTurf surface, completing the project ahead of the July 31

deadline. The FieldTurf brand was chosen by the Skyhawks because of its outstanding reputation as the top artificial playing surface in football. FieldTurf is the playing surface of choice for 21 of the 32 NFL stadiums and is currently used by over 50 other Division I football programs. The FieldTurf playing surface is very stable, uniform and predictable. It does not contribute to leg fatigue, ankle, ACL and other injuries associated with other rubber-filled turf systems.



To view all athletic schedules, visit utmsports.com.

Hall of Fame Winners Honored

Five former UT Martin athletes and chancellor emeritus Nick Dunagan were inducted into the university's Athletic Hall of Fame, Oct. 4, at the annual Letter Winners and Hall of Fame Breakfast at the Student Life Center.

Among the athletes in the 25th induction class were **Romel "Zeek" Andrews** (football), **Deslonde Collins** (football), **Randy Horn** (baseball) **Eric Kugler** (rifle), **Angela Olsen** (tennis).

Dr. Nick Dunagan led the university to several significant athletics milestones. As acting chancellor in 1986, he initiated efforts to secure UT Martin's membership in the Ohio Valley Conference, and continued, in his executive vice chancellor role, to work with Chancellor Margaret Perry on both the OVC membership application and the movement from NCAA Division II to Division I. After becoming chancellor in April 2001, he supported athletics facilities improvements, including construction of the Bob Carroll Football Building, new seating in Skyhawk Arena and the installation of a new artificial playing surface in Hardy M. Graham Stadium. OVC championships in volleyball, women's tennis and football marked high points in the athletics program during his administration. He officially retired in July 2007, leaving a lasting legacy for UT Martin athletics.

Andrews played football from 1982-85. He played linebacker and defensive line. The Ripley native recorded 108 total tackles as a sophomore and junior. Andrews signed a free agent contract with the Hamilton Tigercats in 1986. He spent nine years in the Canadian Football League and played for two Grey Cup championship teams. He also played for the Winnipeg Bluebombers and resigned from the Tigercats in 1994.



Among those honored in the 25th UT Martin Hall of Fame induction class were, left to right, Randy Horn (baseball), Deslonde Collins (football), Romel "Zeek" Andrews (football), Angela Olsen (tennis), Nick Dunagan (chancellor emeritus) and Eric Kugler (rifle).

"I enjoyed 100 percent of my time at UT Martin," Andrews said.

Collins, from Milan, played football from 1962-64. He played center and linebacker and served as the team captain of the 1964 team. He has been active in the Ghosts of the Gridiron Club and attends most UT Martin home games.

"I am proud that I attended UT Martin, and I am proud that I played football at UT Martin," Collins said. "I am even more proud of this honor."

Horn, from Cordova, played baseball from 1968-71. He was an outfielder and he sported a .320 career batting average. He played on the 1968 and 1971 Volunteer Scholastic Athletic Conference championship teams and earned All-VSAC honors in 1970. He was also a member of the 1971 team that advanced to the NCAA Mideast Regional Tournament.

"This is an honor that is so overwhelming to me," Horn said.

Kugler, who now lives in Spain, was a member of the UT Martin rifle team from 1982-86 and was the first UT Martin athlete to qualify for the NCAA Rifle Championship. He led the former Pacers to their first top-20 finish in 1984. He was a two-time All-Gulf South Conference selection and a three-time qualifier for the NCAA championship.

"The people in Martin make you feel at home. It was special to be a part of the rifle team."

Olsen, from London, England, played tennis from 1994-97. She sported a 35-3 Ohio Valley Conference singles record and a 36-2 OVC doubles worksheet. She was a four-time All-OVC selection, and she led her team to a pair of conference championships. She was named the OVC's Player of the Year and Scholar Athlete in 1996.

"It's an honor and privilege to receive this honor," Olsen said. **UTM**

HALL OF FAME NOMINATIONS

Athlete or Coach to be nominated _____

Years of participation at UT Martin _____

Years of attendance and graduation year _____

UT Martin athletic accomplishments _____

Your name and contact number _____

Please submit by April 1, 2009, to

Joe Lofaro, Athletic Communications Director, Room 40, Skyhawk Fieldhouse, UT Martin, Martin, TN 38238 or jlofaro@utm.edu

Skyhawk Assistant Golf Coach Plays in Tennessee State Amateur with Former Coach (and Dad) on Bag

Former golfer from UT Martin, Scott Carpenter ('04), was a standout for the Skyhawks during his college days and has enjoyed even more success in his amateur career since graduation. He is playing the best golf of his career right now and recently took his game to the Tennessee State Amateur Championships at Ridgeway Country Club in Memphis. At the State Amateur, Carpenter competed against the best Tennessee has to offer for the state's top amateur honor.



Carpenter wasn't alone in his quest for the State Amateur title. Inside the ropes and on the bag as his caddie was his dad and former coach at UT Martin, Jerry Carpenter ('66). As most any competitive golfer will tell you, the key to a successful tournament is having a caddie on the bag that knows your game, even better than you do at times. Luckily for Scott, Jerry and he had been on the course together ever since he picked up his first club in the fourth grade.

"I can remember back when Scott first picked up a cut-off 5-iron and started hacking around the course," recalled Jerry. "He really had a natural swing even then and just took off from there."

Scott grew up on the golf course with his dad around, and the two grew even closer through the two seasons Scott was able to play for his dad at UT Martin. With a closeness that extends past the typical father-son relationship and onto the golf course, the decision to have him on the bag in the biggest tournament of his amateur career so far was a no-brainer.

"He [Jerry] has wanted to do something like this for years now. Having him on the bag is comforting, because he does know my game so well. He also knows exactly what to say to me when I need to hear it. Through it all though, he's still dad, and this is an experience that not every father and son have the opportunity to have together."

Scott's playing career isn't the only occasion that he and Jerry have shared time on the golf course. After Scott's gradua-

tion from college, he stayed connected with the Skyhawk golf program as a volunteer assistant coach, helping guide his former teammates side-by-side with his dad. Scott is now in his fourth year as a coach and routinely participates in practice sessions with the team, working with players on their game, and travels to a number of tournaments each year.

Scott's natural golf swing had plenty of practice this summer, competing in a number of regional tournaments and enjoying quality finishes in each prior to the State Amateur. Those tournament performances were highlighted by a 27th place finish at the Irvin Cobb Pro-Am Championships in Paducah, Ky., in which Scott competed against both professional and amateur competitors. His quality performance at the Cobb Championships also included the second hole-in-one of his career and helped give him the confidence to make a run at qualifying for the State Amateur.

Scott also credits his previous experience gained as a player at UT Martin for his recent success. "We played a lot of large tournaments during my college career, and the State Am had a similar feel to those and the Ohio Valley Conference Championships."

Jerry agreed that the experiences Scott had as a collegiate golfer at UT Martin improved his game. He also believes that while in college most golfers really learn how to practice and work on their games; but it is after college when it really clicks for them. He has seen it in a number of

the players who have come through the Skyhawk program, Scott included.

In addition to tournament competition, Scott has also put in a lot of work on the practice range. He wasn't the only one practicing, though. After Scott qualified, and Jerry knew he was going to be carrying a 40-plus pound golf bag for 2-3 miles each day, he knew he needed to be in shape for that. In preparation, he began training himself by walking in his neighborhood each night like always, only now with a golf bag on his back. After being stopped a few times in the beginning by curious neighbors making sure the coach hadn't lost his way from the golf course, Jerry readied himself to carry the bag all five days of the tournament.

Prior to the tournament's beginning, Scott and Jerry set two individual goals. Goal number one was making the cut, which required ranking among the top 60 golfers in the field after two rounds of competition. Scott and Jerry made the cut and were able to move on the next goal, which was to enjoy the final two rounds and for Scott to play the best he could. From then on, wherever the chips fell and Scott finished was just fine with the duo.

Scott finished the State Amateur at 19-over-par 303 and in 59th place. The final number on the scorecard wasn't what will be the lasting memory of the State Am for Scott and Jerry, though. That memory will be the feeling when the two lined up that first tee shot on No. 1 and embarked together down a fairway they had both dreamed of walking down. **UTM**



The University Museum in the Corbitt Special Collections area of the Paul Meek Library at UT Martin recently was named the “J. Houston Gordon Museum” in honor of J. Houston Gordon, of Covington, alumnus, benefactor and volunteer leader of the university. Unveiling a plaque at the dedication ceremony with Gordon, center, are University of Tennessee President John Petersen, left, and UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes. Gordon also signed copies of his book, *The Plains of Abraham*.



UT Martin Dining Services recently welcomed Chick-fil-A® and Sandella’s Flatbread Café® to campus, serving students, faculty, staff and the public. Located in the food court, these new options join the Skyhawk Cafe, Smart Market, The Convenience Store and Captain’s Coffee in meeting the diverse food and refreshment needs of the UT Martin student body.

State’s Largest Percentage Enrollment Increase

UT Martin continues to set all-time enrollment records, claiming the largest percentage increase among Tennessee four-year public universities. Along with that, UT Martin had record-high enrollments in six categories, based on fall 2008 enrollment figures.

A total of 7,578 students were enrolled for the fall semester, an increase from 7,173 recorded for fall 2007.

The fall 2008 total included all-time record fall enrollments for total headcount, incoming freshmen, undergraduates, dual-enrollment students, total full-time equivalent and undergraduate full-time equivalent students. Public higher education funding is based on fall semester full-time equivalency.

“We are pleased to see this level of continued student interest in our programs,” said Dr. Tom Rakes, university chancellor. “Such enrollment growth is one indicator of support and affirmation concerning the overall quality of the college experience UT Martin provides.”

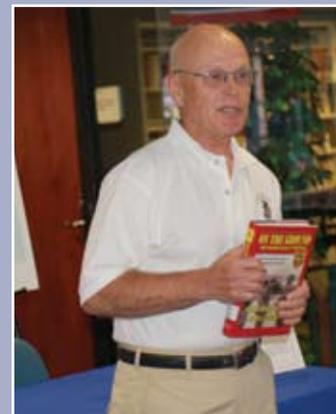
Based on final figures, this fall’s enrollment at UT Martin was a 5.6 percent increase over fall 2007. Final figures were compiled by the university’s Office of Institutional Research and Planning.

The record enrollment also reflected 1,342 freshmen, the largest freshman class on the UT Martin campus. Fall enrollment indicated that first-time freshmen had an average 3.38 high school grade-point average, up from 3.37 in 2007, and an average ACT score of 22.40, up from 22.07 in 2007.

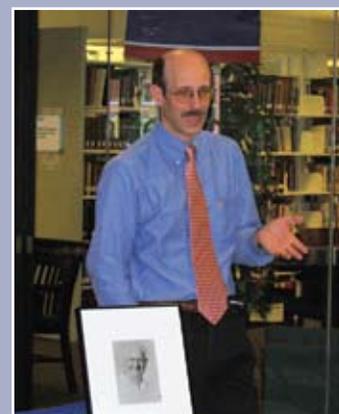
“Although enrollment growth is exciting, more important is the fact that this entering class is the most academically capable group of new students we have admitted,” said Rakes.

Compared to last year’s totals, UT Martin had 405 more undergraduates and graduates for a 5.6 percent increase, and 113 additional dual-enrollment students, a 15.4 percent increase.

The Paul Meek Library saw two book signings as part of the October homecoming celebrations. John Peters, co-author of *On The Ground, the Secret War in Vietnam*, signed copies of his book. Richard Saunders, UT Martin special collections librarian and archivist, signed copies of *Their Ancient Grudge*.



John Peters



Richard Saunders



New Apartments A ribbon-cutting ceremony and open house, Aug. 13, marked completion of the \$28 million University Village expansion project. Located on the former McCord Hall site, the three, four-story buildings joined the original University Village apartment-style complex and offer controlled access and the

privacy and amenities many students are looking for in on-campus housing. The expansion houses more than 400 students. Construction of the complex, designed in a joint venture by TLM Associates, Inc., of Jackson, and Lyle, Cook, Martin, of Clarksville, began in April 2007.



Student Recreation Center Groundbreaking Among those participating in the University of Tennessee at Martin Student Recreation Center groundbreaking were, from left, Gina McClure, director of campus recreation; Dr. Margaret Toston, vice chancellor for student affairs; Dr. John Schommer, faculty member of the UT Board of Trustees; Brittany McGruder, student member of the UT Board of Trustees; Chancellor Tom Rakes; UT President John Petersen; Lane Lyle, Lyle-Cook-Martin Architects, Inc.; Crawford Gallimore, UT Board of Trustees member; Scott Fleming, Fleming Associates president; Mark White, A&K Construction project manager; Erin Chambers, former Student Government Association president; Tim Nipp, physical plant director; Jim Fassiotta, A&K Construction site superintendent; and Al Hooten, vice chancellor for finance and administration.

USDA Grant and Matching Funds Provide Nearly \$135,000 to Immerse Students in Global Agriculture



The Office of International Science and Education Program of the U.S. Department of Agriculture recently announced that the University of Tennessee at Martin has been awarded \$99,999 for a Global Agriculture Leadership Incubator Project (GALIP). With additional funds provided by UT Martin, the total project amount is \$134,999.

Dr. Joseph Mehlhorn, professor of agricultural economics, will serve as project director of this pilot model for internationalizing the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources curriculum. Mehlhorn worked with Andrew Brown, assistant director for international initiatives, UT Martin Center for Global Studies and International Education, and Dr. Bonnie Daniel, senior research associate, UT Martin Office of Research, Grants and Contracts, to develop the proposal. Brown will serve as evaluator of the project.

“The GALIP grant program will allow UT Martin students and faculty to gain valuable experience in international agriculture trade issues,” said Mehlhorn. “In today’s global agriculture marketplace, it is essential to have an understanding of social, economic and technological factors facing consumers and producers in other countries.

“This is a chance of a lifetime for our students to experience another culture and learn another language,” he added. “This will enable UT Martin students to be more marketable for international jobs in agriculture. The program will also allow faculty members to better incorporate international issues into the curriculum.”

While this project will work specifically with the University of Guanajuato and Universidad Autonoma Agraria Antonio Narro in Mexico, this model can be modified for application in other countries in the future. Participating students will earn an International Agriculture Certificate through 18 hours of coursework in agriculture topics,

language and travel study. Students and faculty will spend four weeks in Mexico in an intensive language-immersion experience.

The following fall, students, faculty and agribusiness leaders will return to Mexico for one week and will present case studies. Back in the U.S., students will present their international case studies at regional professional conferences and at vocational agriculture programs at local schools. GALIP participants will increase their cross-cultural competence, and the revised curriculum will create new forums of dialogue about international agriculture issues.

“My experience in Mexico through the agriculture travel-study trip was great,” said Nicholas Lewis, junior agribusiness major from Ocoee, who is participating in the program.

“While in Mexico I learned so much about production agriculture and how Mexican agriculture impacts U.S. markets. I also gained valuable experience about how cultural differences impact marketing agricultural products. I enjoyed the experience and cannot wait to go back again with the GALIP program this summer.”

Mehlhorn added, “Mexico is one of the largest trading partners to the U.S. and is vitally important to U.S. consumers. There is a great deal we can learn from studying Mexican agriculture that can make our producers and agribusinesses more competitive in the global marketplace. By understanding Mexican consumers and producers, we can better target our products for their market and increase the flow of goods between our two nations. This is truly a unique opportunity for students.” **UTM**

Travel-Study Opportunities Abound

From Paris to the Amazon, Lisbon to South Korea, European Alps to Washington, D.C., UT Martin's Center for Global Studies and International Education will offer 15 travel-study programs in 2009.

Trips begin in February and March with a study program titled "**Abraham Lincoln at 200: Words, Will & Wisdom**" to **Springfield, Ill.**, Feb. 26-March 1, and to **Washington, D.C.**, March 9-15. Dr. Michelle Merwin, Department of Psychology interim chair, and Tim Hacker, English instructor, will lead both trips.

On March 4-16, two trips are planned to **Paris** and **London**. One will be led by Dr. Jeff Hoyer, associate professor of communications, and Stan Sieber, professor of history, and the other by Dr. Tom Payne, Department of Accounting, Economics, Finance and International Business interim chair.

A list of other trip dates, destinations and department faculty leaders includes:

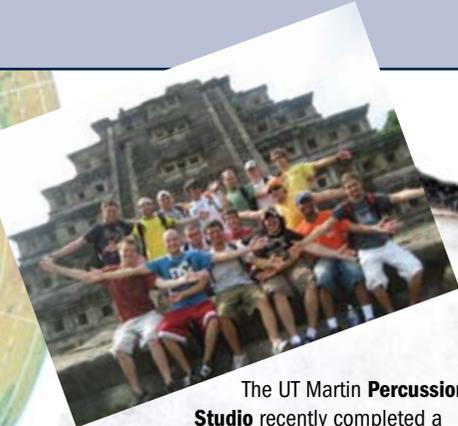
- **March 5-14, Lisbon, Portugal/Madrid, Spain**, Drs. Lúcia Flórido and Randall Garza (modern foreign languages);
- **March 7-12, Washington, D.C.** (Holocaust), Dr. Alice-Catherine Carls (history and philosophy);
- **May 10-16, Washington, D.C.**, Drs. Paula Gale, Michael Gibson and Jeff Rogers (agriculture and natural resources/geology, geography and physics);
- **May 10-23, Germany**, Dr. Chuck Hammond (modern foreign languages);
- **May 11-21, South Korea**, Dr. J.C. Kim (health and human performance);
- **May 15-26, Greece**, Dr. Nathan Howard (history and philosophy);
- **May 18-31, New England/Atlantic Canada**, Drs. Charles Bradshaw and David Creelman (English);
- **May 23-31, Mediterranean Cruise**, Mike Sudzum and Lorrie Jackson (community);
- **July 6-20, European Alps**, Stan Sieber (history and philosophy);
- **Aug. 10-15, Washington, D.C.**, Darrell Simmons (criminal justice);
- **December 2009, Amazon**, Dr. Sue Byrd, Scott Pun and Dr. Bradley Ray (family consumer sciences/health and human performance/ agriculture and natural resources).

For more information, visit the Web site at www.utm.edu/departments/globalstudies or call the center at 731-881-1017.

UT Martin Recognized

UT Martin earned some important regional and national recognitions in fall 2008.

- The university is listed in the top tier for southern master's institutions in the 2009 edition of *America's Best Colleges* compiled by *U.S. News & World Report*.
- Also, *The Princeton Review* named UT Martin "A Best Southeastern College" for 2009.
- For the third year, UT Martin is listed among America's 100 Best College Buys, a listing compiled by Institutional Research & Evaluation, Inc.



The UT Martin **Percussion Studio** recently completed a concert tour in Mexico. The 16 percussion majors served as guest artists in the PercuSonidos International Percussion Festival along with Dr. Julie Hill, director. Activities included a showcase concert, percussion pedagogy clinic and a "hands-on" marching percussion clinic in which the students from UAT (Universidad Autonoma de Tamaulipas) participated. Additional guest artists from the U.S., Argentina and Mexico were in attendance and performed with UT Martin on the closing selection (*Rudi's Batuque*) of their program. After the conclusion of the festival events, percussionists from both universities performed in an international "jam" for the community. The UT Martin students also visited the Tajin Pyramids in the state of Veracruz. The tour was funded by private gifts from John Sorey and the UT Alliance of Women Philanthropists.



ACADEMIC SPEAKERS



Internationally known Canadian architect Douglas Cardinal spoke about "Discovery Park of America: Reflections of an Architect's Life and Vision" on Oct. 9.



Acclaimed poet and author Richard Tillinghast read and discussed his most recent work, *The New Life* on Oct. 27.



On Sept. 8, former UT Martin professor Dr. Vaughn May discussed political narratives in the 2008 presidential election.



Len Solomons
Vice Chancellor for
University Advancement

“You aren’t truly living until you have given back and made a difference.”

– Clayton McWhorter

Altruism in Action

For Jim Ayers, It’s All About Students

By Chandra Harris-McCray

James “Jim” Ayers is a one-man powerhouse making education possible for countless students in Middle and West Tennessee.

Because of his leadership and vision, almost 90 percent of Riverside High School graduates continue their education at a public or private college or technical school. Before the native of Parsons established the Ayers Foundation Scholarship Program in 1999, less than 30 percent of Decatur County high school graduates went on to college. Last year, 82 percent of the high school seniors at Scotts Hill, the other participating high school in Henderson County, went on to make their dream of a college education a reality.

“I wanted to change the economic landscape and quality of life for students in Middle and West Tennessee,” said Ayers, who conceived the scholarship idea after seeing a news story about a Texas businessman who did something similar to help students pursue their higher education goals.

More than \$3.9 million in scholarships have been awarded since the fall of 2000. The program, which was established through the Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee, provides up to \$4000 (based on need) to any student in good standing with in the Decatur County area for four years at any college or university, community college or state-run technical school. UT Martin has enrolled more than 165 Ayers Scholars with awards totaling more than \$518,000.

Former Ayers Scholar and 2004 UT Martin graduate Jason Rushing credits the program for changing his life. “I had absolutely no idea how this program would affect my life and the lives of so many others,” Rushing said. He currently serves as director of the UT Martin Parsons Center, the newest of UT Martin’s four extended-campus sites. The facility is being funded with a generous seven-figure gift and more than \$1 million in support from other private citizens. Another \$1 million was given by the City of Parsons and Decatur County. With its official opening in the spring 2009, the center will offer more than 19,000 square-feet of academic and administrative support space.



Photo by Joe Howell

Recognized as one of Tennessee’s top entrepreneurs, James “Jim” Ayers is passionate about giving UT students an upper hand through the Ayers Foundation Scholarship Program and the UT Martin Parsons Center.

Ayers said it is not enough just to build a building. “I want to continue to inspire students of all ages to continue their education.” Scholarships are available to take classes at the Parsons Center for traditional college students, as well as non-traditional adult students, who have been out of high school for at least three years and may be working or raising a family.

“I want to be the encouragement that maybe someone does not have. I want students to understand that hard work does pay off,” Ayers said.

Raised on a farm in rural Tennessee, Ayers knows the meaning of hard work from his days of baling hay, driving a tractor, and caring for cattle. As a child, Ayers had seeds of encouragement planted in him by his parents to pursue knowledge and education. After graduating from Parsons High School, Ayers went on to Memphis State College with the intent of becoming a dentist. He even enrolled in Reserve Officers’ Training Corps. (ROTC) with the inkling that he might pursue becoming a pilot.

Instead, Ayers studied accounting and, upon graduation, worked with Ortho Pharmaceuticals in Birmingham, Ala. He eventually came back to rural West Tennessee and began working as a comptroller for a company that managed a series of nursing homes. Ayers, who serves as vice chair of The

A Legacy of Giving Back

By Chandra Harris-McCray

Campaign for Tennessee and honorary campaign chair at UT Martin, became a well-known leader in nursing home ownership and management and eventually diversified into banking. He is now recognized as one of Tennessee's top entrepreneurs as chair of FirstBank and Ayers Asset Management.

"Whether you call it blessed or lucky, I have been fortunate enough to have good fortune," said Ayers, who resides in Nashville with his wife, Janet Ayers.

After losing his half brother to a tragic tractor accident in 1989, Ayers said his outlook on life changed, and he began to realize just how fortunate he was.

"I feel a responsibility to share my good fortune and to make a difference in the lives of those who live in and around Parsons—the place where it all started for me, the place I will always call home," said Ayers. **UTM**

To gain his college degree, R. Clayton McWhorter worked in a small grocery store, dry cleaners, drugstore and delivered newspapers.

Working part time became part of the norm for McWhorter, who spent his first year studying pre-pharmacy at the University of Tennessee before transferring and earning his pharmacy degree from Howard College, now Samford University in Birmingham, Ala.

McWhorter's working ways had already gotten the best of him by the time he graduated from high school when he told his mother, Gladys McWhorter Franks, he would be happy to just work and gain enough cash for a car. McWhorter quickly discovered he could work all he wanted, but it would be while pursuing a college education.

Born in Chattanooga and raised in North Georgia, McWhorter and his three siblings lived in a farmhouse with no electricity, indoor plumbing or locks on the exterior doors. Raised single-handedly by their mother, the McWhorters may have lived in poverty, but they were taught always to drop what little change they had into the donation plate at church.

"You aren't truly living until you have given back and made a difference," said McWhorter.

As noted in McWhorter's biography, *Leadership to Win*, giving back and making a difference were values instilled in him as a child, which he continues to carry with him. With more than 50 years' experience as a top executive in the health-care industry, McWhorter made a pledge to himself in 1996 that he would maintain his net worth at its 1996 level and, if he were blessed beyond that with some returns, he would give it all back. He has done just that.

A faithful supporter of UT Martin, McWhorter has established scholarships with a novel workshop concept to help students who, as he did, work their way through college. Along with the R. Clayton McWhorter Endowment, McWhorter recently committed an extraordinary seven-figure deferred gift to the UT Martin College of Business and Public Affairs. McWhorter is also an avid supporter of UT Knoxville College of Law and the Institute for Public Service, along with other institutions of higher learning and charitable organizations.

Continuing his long legacy of giving back, McWhorter has lent his vision and resources to create SHOUTAmerica, a non-profit organization, which serves as an educational vehicle to energize and engage youth regarding the need for health-care reform in America. Whitney Maxey attended the SHOUTAmerica conference. She said, "I have never been more challenged or inspired by any conference that I have attended before. The knowledge and the desire to help young adults that Mr. McWhorter displays is truly remarkable."

The former vice chair of the UT Board of Trustees and UT Development Council member also continues to serve as chair of the private equity firm in Franklin, Clayton Associates, which he and his son, Stuart, founded. McWhorter makes Nashville his home with his wife, Michelle McWhorter, children and grandchildren.

Laughing, McWhorter said he cannot imagine retiring and not being involved. "I will continue to do all that I can to open doors for young students, and I hope they will pay it forward as I have done," he said. "It is such a wonderful feeling to know that you have made a difference in someone's life."

McWhorter is generous not only because it is simply the right thing to do; but because he feels, based on the lessons his mother taught him, that we all have an obligation to give back. **UTM**



A faithful supporter of UT Martin, Clayton McWhorter has established scholarships with a novel workshop concept to help students who, as he did, work their way through college. Along with the R. Clayton McWhorter Endowment, McWhorter has made a generous deferred gift to the UT Martin College of Business and Public Affairs.

The Real Deal



Charley Deal
Assistant Vice Chancellor
for Alumni Relations

Alumni often feel that the only way to support their alma mater is to give money. Wrong answer!

Typically I spend time writing my column in a way that summarizes homecoming and talking about what lies ahead for alumni relations. But, instead, this time I want to talk about a new program geared toward our graduates of the last decade: the GOLD program.

Alumni often feel that the only way to support their alma mater is to give money. Wrong answer! Alumni can be mentors to current students, volunteer to serve on councils and advisory boards, recruit students to participate in meetings and events sponsored by UT Martin. The new GOLD program seeks to involve these new alumni in positive ways, using new methods of contacting them. Facebook, email blasts and e-vite programs are now being used to help our university communicate with this large segment of our population.

Whether you're GOLD or like me and just OLD, we need your support now more than ever before. Regardless of age, your support and involvement are critical.

On the next page, you will read highlights of comments made at the annual Alumni Dinner and Awards program. A very big thank you to all of the alumni who traveled to take part in the Homecoming '08 activities. What a great weekend it was for our university. Quad City continues to grow, and our goal for next year is to see more than 6,000 people come back to campus! Speaking of next year, our homecoming date has been set for Saturday, Oct. 10, 2009. Please plan to join us for exciting homecoming and reunion events. **UTM**

Larry Bradley ('82 MBA) visited recently and donated two copies of his book, *Neither Liberal Nor Conservative Be*, to the Paul Meek Library and Department of Management, Marketing and Political Science. Bradley's book focuses on helping individuals overcome polarized politics. His next book will propose needed changes to America's political and electoral process. His Blog is TheCenter-StrikesBack.com. He is pictured signing his book with Charley Deal of the Office of Alumni Relations.



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Alumni Awards Presented at Homecoming

It seems no matter how long it has been since an alum left UT Martin, when something piques his or her memory, it's evident that professors, classmates and the overall experience made an indelible mark.

J. Houston Gordon (see page 18), **Dr. Jane Kao** (see page 4) and **Charlie Neese**, who returned for homecoming weekend, had no trouble recounting their UT Martin experiences at the annual alumni awards banquet, Oct. 3.

For Gordon, a Covington attorney who received the Chancellor's Award for University Service, his association with the institution began when his grandmother, Ava Darnell Gordon, traveled on horseback from Yuma to Hall-Moody College (which became UT Martin) to earn a teacher's certificate. That legacy now includes four generations of Gordons as alumni.

"Obviously, UT Martin has impacted our family for good," said Gordon. He added, "I spent four years as an Army JAG (Judge Advocate General) officer, but my military training began here. My interest in history and politics and my love of writing poetry and the English language were nurtured here. My passionate belief in equal rights was fostered here. I met and befriended some of the brightest, most interesting people on earth here who continue to be, throughout this country, influences for good."

Citing a need for an educated, informed and committed citizenry, Gordon said that is why he and his wife, Deb, are passionate about sponsoring UT Martin's participation in the American Democracy Project, in supporting efforts to teach service, in supporting young scholars and "in giving of our time to assist this great university to fulfill its mission. I am honored and humbled. Thank you for the award and the opportunity to serve," he said.

Kao, Dallas pediatric cardiologist who received the Outstanding Alumni Award, said, "I have so many fond and vivid memories of being here. I am so very grateful and honored to be able to come here tonight ... to accept this award."

She said that following a previous visit to UT Martin to serve as a speaker at the natural sciences faculty awards banquet, she reflected, "What a talented group of faculty we have here at UT Martin ... and how lucky I was to study under them."

She added that in noting the successes of alumni featured in a recent UT Martin annual report, "It just made me so proud that I was once a part of this campus. I truly believe that UT Martin laid the foundation for the success of all of these alumni."

Kao said she is sometimes asked what it is like taking care of critically ill children. "Watching them suffer is a very heart-rending experience ... However, just as I have seen suffering, ... in my 13 years of practice, I have seen so many tremendous advances" in the medical treatment of children with heart disease. "I feel that I am so lucky and fortunate to be able to enter the lives of these patients and their families."

Kao thanked her parents, who "have provided me with unconditional support ... and instilled in me an impeccable work ethic" and several faculty members for their guidance, counsel and opportunities. Looking around the room and seeing a number of faculty members who continue to teach and serve as mentors, she added, "It takes a very special kind of person with a very special kind of talent to be able to do this."

Neese, on-air meteorologist at WTVF-News Channel 5, Nashville, who was named the Outstanding Young Alumni, also noted the success of UT Martin graduates. "The quality of alumni from UT Martin is truly astounding. People go from this school to change the world and to change peoples' lives."

Developing a love of the weather at an early age, he kept hearing about UT Martin as he prepared for college. "From the moment I stepped on campus and in the department (of communications), I knew UT Martin was going to be my college home."

Neese also thanked numerous professors for their passion for teaching. "There are at least two big things that allow dreams to come true when you have a goal. No. 1 is to be passionate. I was passionate about weather. No. 2, I needed tools to help me achieve that goal. And, that's exactly what UT Martin gave me. It gave me the tools to do well."

He added, "What heart the professors at this school have. UT Martin took a kid from Williamson County, Tenn., ... and gave me the tools to achieve my dream, to achieve my passion, and for that I am forever grateful. I am very honored and very humbled." **UTM**



J. Houston Gordon



Dr. Jane Kao



Charlie Neese

1950



Herbert Grodemange Jr., ('50) lives in Albany, Ga. He is a retired Proctor and Gamble engineer. He has been named volunteer of the year for community service and is on the board of directors for YMCA and Girl's Inc. He has two children: Ron, 51; and Bob, 49.

1974

Teresa Cuogh Edens ('74) is vice president and owner of Montano Acura in Albuquerque, N.M. She and her husband, Jim, have two children: Cuoghi, 27; and Sara, 25. Email: tree.edens@comcast.net

1975



Margie Nichols ('75) has been named interim vice chancellor for communications for UT Knoxville, where she will oversee the media relations, creative communications and video and photo services teams. She previously served as the UT System's chief of staff.

1978

Johnny Barry Joyner ('78) was named the 2007 physician of the year at Dyersburg Regional Medical Center and is the former chief of staff there. He and his wife, Brenda, live in Dyersburg and have two children: Ryan, 16; and Rebecca, 19. Email: joyn7@bellsouth.net

1982

Maree Howell ('82) lives in Memphis with her husband, Doyle, and their two daughters, Rebecca, 17, and Victoria, 15. Maree works with Hilton Hotels Corp. as manager of planning and administration. She coaches a competitive youth soccer team and is a licensed Tennessee soccer coach. Email: mnauman@rocketmail.com

1990

Mitch Verdell ('90) lives with his wife, Debbie Tucker Verdell, in Gleason. He is an executive director at Liberty Retreat and Conference Center and is minister of music at First Baptist Church in Gleason. He worked full-time in student ministry from 1994-2007. They have three children: Conner, 14; Cole, 14; and Addison, 10. Email: libertyretreat@bellsouth.net

1992



Trina Rae Weaks ('92) lives in Hohenwald and teaches third grade in the Lewis County School System. She received her master's degree in elementary reading and literacy from Walden University in 2005 and her

doctorate in educational administration and supervision from Middle Tennessee State University in 2008. She has one child: RoyeAnn, 15. Email: trinaweaks@hotmail.com

1994



Sandra Morgan Tarkington ('94) accepted a marketing position at Edward Jones Investments in Dyersburg. She had been employed at White & Associates Insurance in marketing and training. "I gained a lot from 14 years with White & Associates. A great opportunity presented itself, and I'm excited to take this new challenge."

1996

Roger Allen Cagle ('96) lives in Crossett, Ark., where he works as a Crossett school teacher. He received the All-American Scholar Award in 1996 and was chosen as employee of the month in June of 2004. He has two children: Amanda, 21; and Joshua, 19. Email: rac38229@aim.com

Young Alumni!

GOLD or Graduates of the Last Decade are invited to join the Office of Alumni Relations on Facebook. A organizational meeting will take place in early 2009 to elect officers of GOLD and begin planning activities for the group. There is no charge to become a member of the group. If you are interested in joining, search for UT Martin Young Alumni on Facebook or call 731-881-3610.



Charitable Gift Annuities Benefit the University of Tennessee

DID YOU KNOW YOU CAN SUPPORT THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE THROUGH A CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITY—WHICH OFFERS YOU AN OPPORTUNITY TO HELP THE UNIVERSITY WHILE RECEIVING A FIXED INCOME FOR LIFE? The University of Tennessee Foundation is offering this new program to benefit you and any UT campus, institute, college, department, or program you designate by entering into a charitable gift annuity agreement.

You will be impressed by the many advantages a gift annuity offers. An attractive gift annuity rate is not the only advantage. Other benefits include:

- Guaranteed income for life;
- An immediate income tax charitable deduction;
- Income that is partially tax-free; and
- Capital gains tax savings if your gift annuity is funded with appreciated assets.

Please be aware that currently our charitable gift annuity program is being administered only in Tennessee, but to the extent we are not prohibited to issue gift annuities in other states, we would be pleased to work with you on a gift annuity benefiting the University of Tennessee.

If you would like more information about charitable gift annuities available through the UT Foundation, please call 865-974-2115 for more information or complete the online form at www.plan.gs/Article.do?orgId=5211&articleId=8499. With the information on this form, we can provide you an analysis showing the payments and tax benefits for your unique situation.

You may also contact Jeanna Swafford, UT Martin director of development and planned giving, at 731-881-7629.

Let us know what you're up to!

Please also use this form to update your address if it has changed.

Full Name (include maiden name, if applicable): _____

Years Attended: _____ through _____ School/College of: _____

Degree(s): _____ Major: _____

Home Address: _____ City/State/Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Business Phone: _____

Occupation: _____ Business Name or Employer: _____

Business Address: _____ City/State/Zip: _____

Your Email Address: _____

Would you like your Email address published in *Campus Scene*? Yes No

Full Name of Spouse: _____

Did your spouse attend UT Martin? Yes No

Years Attended: _____ Through _____ School/College of: _____

Degree(s): _____ Major: _____

Occupation: _____ Business Name of Employer: _____

Business Address: _____ City/State/Zip: _____

Spouse's Email Address: _____

Names and Ages of Children: _____

Additional News (honors, promotions, etc.): _____

List your current hobbies: _____

Would you consider taking an active leadership role in UT Martin alumni activities?

Yes No

Would you like this information published in *Campus Scene*? Yes No

If you know anyone who may be interested in UT Martin and is a high school junior or senior, please give us his or her name and address.

Enclose a recent color headshot photo, if possible.

No low-resolution digital photos, please! Photographs cannot be returned to you. Every effort will be made to use all color headshots submitted. However, space considerations and/or photo quality may prevent us from using submitted photos in some instances.

Fill out, clip and return this form to:

Office of Alumni Relations
University of Tennessee at Martin
1900 Alumni Way
Martin, TN 38238
alumni@utm.edu

THE UNIVERSITY of
TENNESSEE 
MARTIN



Arthur L. Sparks Jr., CPA, ('76) a partner with Alexander Thompson Arnold CPAs, was recognized as one of Tennessee's 25 top accountants by **Business Tennessee Magazine**. The announcement was made in the magazine's March 2008 issue. The list was compiled with the input of Tennessee businesses and lawyers who utilize accounting services and accountants. Sparks is the past president of Rotary Club and is a Paul Harris Fellow. He is a Community Foundation of Obion County board member and serves on the University of Tennessee Development Council. He has received the UT Martin Distinguished Service Award and serves on the UT Martin Alumni Council. He is also UT Martin's Skyhawk Club president. An active member of the Obion County Chamber of Commerce, he serves as the chamber's board president.

Russell Gilliam ('96) is a regional sales manager for Alltech, great lakes region. He and his wife, Casi, have one son, Lucas, who is 8. Email: russell_gilliam@hotmail.com

1998

Elizabeth Brasher ('98, MBA '03) has been named to the Memphis Business Journal's "Top 40 Under 40" list.

Veneda Graves Ing ('98) lives in Milan with her husband, Jerry Bruce Ing. She is owner of Jewel Box Jewelers and president of the Downtown Association. She is also on the Chamber of Commerce board, the improvements committee, retail committee and economic development committee. Jerry is a conversion/welder at CeCo Door. Email: jewelboxofmilan@gmail.com

Josh Sykes, ('98), is co-owner of Blue August agency in Jackson. Blue August produced the current UT Martin admissions recruiting video, which won a Silver Award from the University and College Designers Association

(UCDA). The video can be viewed in segments at www.utm.edu/welcome.php

1999

Jill Hazlewood Reeves ('99) lives in Springfield with her husband, **Mark William Reeves** ('97). She teaches pre-K in Robertson County, and Mark is an assistant executive director of the Tennessee Secondary Schools Athletic Association in Hermitage. They have two children: Garrett, 3; and Connor, 1. Email: jill.reeves@rcstn.net or mreeves@tssaa.org

2000

Amanda "Rachel" (Pardue) Erwin ('00) lives in Dyersburg with her husband, Joe David Erwin. She is a family and consumer science extension agent for the University of Tennessee and is working toward her master's degree. Joe is the owner of Great River Road Supercross in Dyersburg. They have two children: Caleigh Jo, 7; and Ryleigh "Claire," 1. Email: erwin@utk.edu

Dareth Cooper Davis ('00) lives in Huntingdon, where she works as an attorney at King Law Office. She is married to Bradley A. Davis, and they have two children: Brady, 6; and Matthew, 4. Email: darethann@excite.com

Charles A. Rice ('00) lives in Franklin with his wife, **Ann Shepherd Rice** ('00). He is an accountant at AIM, and Ann is a stay-at-home mom. They have quadruplets: Shepherd; Elizabeth; Laura Frances; and Mary Carter, who are 2. Email: quad-dad@comcast.net or asrdesign@yahoo.com

2001

Kara Jacobs ('01) was promoted to manager within the Assurance and Enterprise Risk Services practice of Deloitte & Touche LLP

Laura Knipp ('01) accepted a position at the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission in West Palm Beach, Fla., as a regional wildlife biologist. She will work in the Habitat and Species Conservation Service. Email: laknipp@gmail.com

Dustin Seratt ('01) lives in Dyersburg with his wife, **Shelley Smith Seratt** ('99). He is an administrator at Regional Home Care in Jackson, and Shelley is an occupational therapist at Therapy and Learning Center in Jackson. They have one child: Ava Lauren, 1. Email: d_seratt@hotmail.com or shelleyserratt@bellsouth.net

2002

Kevin Barron ('02) has been promoted to vice president, physician services, at West Tennessee Healthcare located in Jackson. Email: kevinbarron@wth.org

Adam Hicks ('02) has been promoted by Skanska USA Building Inc. to senior project manager at LeBonheur Children's Hospital in Memphis. He has worked for Skanska for eight years.

Kristine Jones Tilley ('02) opened Tilley Kitchen & Bath Design Consultants, LLC in 2007, in Nashville. The company designs kitchens, bathrooms, laundry rooms, wet bars, downstairs kitchenettes, powder rooms, foyers and much more. Email: tilleydesigns@bellsouth.net

Timothy James Williams ('02) lives in Hollow Rock and teaches government/economics and world history at Hollow Rock-Bruceton Central High School. He has one child: Hunter, 10.

2004

Lindsey Reid Anderson ('04) lives with her husband, Dane Anderson, in Huntingdon. She works as an accounting assistant for Tosh Farms in Henry. They have a baby named Greyson Dane, six months.

Antonio Gardner, Traveling Nurse

Antonio Gardner's life took an unexpected detour in January 2002, when a wreck left the junior nursing major no choice but a medical withdrawal from UT Martin. Just as he wasted no time resuming his studies and becoming the first African-American male to complete the program, Gardner plunged headlong into a nursing career.

"It would be an understatement to say God has blessed me in so many ways," said Gardner, a Memphis native. "After graduation from UT Martin's nursing program in 2004, I passed the NCLEX (National Council Licensure EXamination-Registered Nurse) and successfully made a transition to adult emergency room care at the Regional Medical Center of Memphis (The Med – a widely known regional level I trauma center)."

He added, "The Med holds a special place in my heart for several reasons. My grandmother, Rubystine Yancey, the inspiration for my choice of a career in nursing, has served the facility and her community for over 35 years. The Med also happens to have been the site at which I received medical care and reached my full recovery after my motor vehicle accident."

Following four years at The Med, Gardner recently contracted with several traveling nurse agencies. Travel nursing is a career choice that allows nurses to take short-term positions across the country. As a licensed nurse in a time with a nursing shortage, there has been a surge in demand by hospitals and clinics for nurses to fill in for short periods. These nursing positions usually span three months to a year. Depending on the duration and distance from home, the employer will often supply housing, or alternatively, a housing subsidy.

"The length of stay for each assignment depends on the contract agreement," said Gardner. "Thus far, traveling has been a great experience. I have met many people, done all sorts of networking and have built my knowledge base tremendously. There are many advantages to traveling."



Gardner has a five-year-old daughter, Aloni. "She traveled on assignment with me to California this summer, and we had the best time of both of our lives," he said.

"Choosing UT Martin to pursue my undergraduate studies was one of the best decisions of my life," said Gardner. "The nursing faculty laid an extremely firm educational foundation for what is now a very successful nursing career." He added, "I have gained expertise in various areas, such as emergency room, ICU and interventional radiology. The nursing faculty as a whole shapes the care I provide for my patients on a daily basis." He said, "Dr. Esther Christian, my nursing faculty adviser, is a positive source of reinforcement each time we speak."

Gardner also has fond memories of his fraternity, Kappa Alpha Psi, which recently drew him back to UT Martin during homecoming weekend. Fraternity adviser, Lt. Darrell Simmons, UT Martin Department of Public Safety, asked him to assist with a fund-raising project for the youth of McCabe Church in Martin, one of the fraternity's philanthropic focuses.

"I have a great deal of respect for him. When he presented me with the opportunity, I did not hesitate. I feel that it is so important for children to get the best possible start at reaching their full potential.

"When I think of UT Martin, I smile. My experience was priceless. Choosing the University of Tennessee at Martin was one of the best decisions of my life, and it keeps getting better." **UTM**

"Traveling has been a great experience. I have met many people, done all sorts of networking and have built my knowledge base tremendously."

Why is there a nursing shortage?

- The nursing workforce is rapidly aging.
- Too few new nurses are being trained.
- A critical nursing faculty shortage has hampered efforts to train sufficient numbers of nurses.
- Women have come to enjoy a far greater range of career choices than in the past, and men are still not entering nursing in significant numbers. Men comprise only about 6% of working U.S. nurses.

http://www.nursingadvocacy.org/faq/nursing_shortage.html

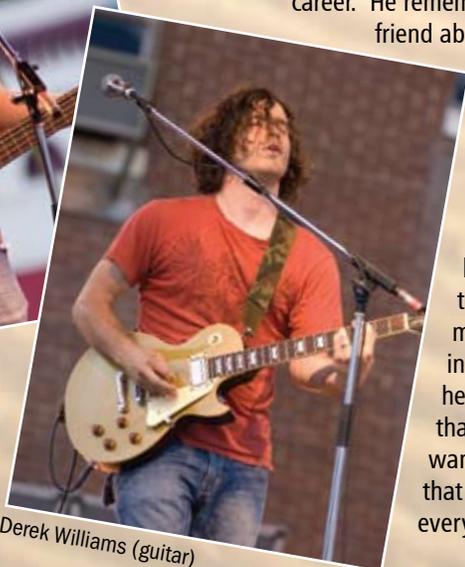
- The U.S. continues to face an aging nursing workforce and an explosion in the need for skilled nursing, as the baby boom generation starts to retire, and health care and care technology grow increasingly complex.
- It is now projected that if current trends continue, the United States will be short 275,000 nurses by the year 2010, and that the nation will need to educate about 1.1 million new nurses by 2012—almost half the size of the nursing workforce in 2007.

Expect a Message at a Daniel Doss Band Concert

Expect a message at a Daniel Doss Band concert. And, expect that message to reach more people as Daniel ('01) and his Christian rock band play to a wider audience following a major record deal and tour in 2008. The year came full circle in September as the band performed before a home crowd as part of Martin's 15th Tennessee Soybean Festival.



Brian Wolski (bass)



Derek Williams (guitar)

Doss, who was raised in Martin, began performing at the age of 5 at church homecomings. His dad, Elwood ('70), a longtime minister of music and UT Martin faculty member, and his mother, Carolyn, a well-known piano teacher, would literally take Daniel and their other two children, Chuck ('97) and Deborah ('98, '04), on mini-tours. "And I remember we'd leave after the final prayer, and we'd go head out to a church an hour away, and we'd sing some songs, mom would play, and Chuck, Deborah and I and dad would sing."

For Doss, music was always part of the family. He began playing cello in the 7th grade at the insistence of his parents who wanted him to learn a string instrument. He later began to experiment with songwriting. He remembers wanting to write a song to sing at high school graduation, and his mother would write the music, and he would sing the melody. The problem was that the verses varied in length, and she said, "Daniel, you need to understand something. The verses need to match." He carried this valuable lesson to college, where he began songwriting in earnest and also learned to play the piano and guitar.

Daniel's music is only part of the story. Called to the ministry in high school, he first served a small community church near Martin and continued to progress to larger churches and greater responsibilities. As he served churches, Daniel questioned whether he was called to pursue a Christian music career. He remembered talking with a friend about music, and his friend

said, "Man, I just think you were made for the church." Eventually, Daniel knew where his musical career was headed.

"God gave a distinct green light on when to go pursue the music industry, and six months later we were signing with Sparrow Records," he said. "And when he gave that green light, I really wanted to put a band together that would be the same band everywhere."



His search for band members brought together Bryan Wolski on bass (a college friend), Derek Williams, a classical guitar player, and Joe Stephens on drums. Each brought professional-level music talent to the band, "And all these guys have influenced their churches where they're volunteers at, so that was big to me. . . . They're not out here to make a buck. They're out here to make a difference," Doss said.

Things happened quickly for the band after signing with a label, including release of their first Sparrow Records recording (titled "Greater Than Us All") last February, followed by the band's first major tour March-May with top Christian music performers, Michael English and Avalon. "They took care of us very well," Doss said. "It was a top-level tour."

Even with Doss's newfound success, he and his wife, Emily ('01), acknowledge that Christian music is a business, and they've had to make adjustments to touring and being on the road. Emily quit her job as a schoolteacher to travel and help manage the business side of the band. His staff position with Grace Community Church in Clarksville, Tenn., provides the couple needed stability.

The band's Tennessee Soybean Festival concert was truly a homecoming. The crowd was treated to original music from the band's current CD, an acoustic set of gospel standards, a band member testimonial and an appeal for concertgoers to make donations to support World Vision, an international organization that fights child poverty. Backing their plea for support, Daniel and Emily made the first pledge.

So, with Daniel Doss, the music is the message, and the message really is in the music.

Michael B. Baggett ('04), was hired as an assistant state's attorney with the Macon County State's Attorney's Office located in Decatur, Ill. He received a J.D. from Southern Illinois University in May. Email: michael.b.baggett@gmail.com

Antonio Davis ('04) received an MBA in business management from Union University in May. Email: antonio.davis@utalum.org

Haley Robinson ('04), received a master's of divinity from Boston University on May 18, 2008. Email: halarobi@utalum.org

2008



Rachel Coleman Bearden ('08) lives in Martin with her husband, Travis Bearden. She is a teacher at Martin Elementary School. Email: beardenr@k12tn.net

Interesting Alumni Facts:

Total UT Martin Alumni	35,259
Total Active UT Martin Alumni	30,220
Fifty year-plus graduates/attendees	1,063
GOLD (Graduates of Last Decade)	9,678
UT Martin alumni living in West Tennessee	15,627
Number of alumni with Email	13,853

2005



Elly Shearman ('05) is an assistant athletic trainer with Elon University Athletic Training Services. Shearman is the primary certified athletic trainer for the Phoenix volleyball and tennis squads and assists with other teams.

2006

Christopher Whitworth ('06) was selected as the 2008-09 Barrow County Schools Teacher of the Year. The Barrow County Web site includes pictures and a biography. <http://www.barrow.k12.ga.us/>. Email: cwhitworth@barrow.k12.ga.us



Honor our past; Celebrate our present; and Anticipate our future

All former Kid College students, teachers and volunteers are invited to send in their favorite Kid College story in celebration of the program's 25th anniversary.

Stories may be sent to:

Debbie Mount, Kid College, 110 Gooch Hall, UT Martin, Martin, TN 32838

JUNE 8 – 18, 2009, IN MARTIN
JUNE 15 – 23, 2009, IN PARIS

Get answers to your questions about academic programs, financial aid, scholarships, housing and student life. Talk with UT Martin students and tour the campus.

Spring Preview Day

March 21, 2009



A groundbreaking ceremony, Nov. 10, marked construction of an expansion project at the UT Martin McNairy County Center/Selmer. The expansion is funded by a one-time \$500,000 state appropriation. The center, in its 10th year of operation, is a joint venture of the city of Selmer and McNairy County, with each contributing \$60,000 to the expansion project. Beginning in fall 2009, the 4,330-square-foot expansion will provide four additional classrooms and office space. Among those participating in the ceremony were, from left, Jerry Hartsfield, representing TLM Associates, Inc., of Jackson; Sen.-elect Dolores Gresham; Wilburn Gene Ashe, former McNairy County mayor; Deidra Beene, center director; UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes; Selmer Mayor David Robinson; and U.S. Rep. Marsha Blackburn.



Katelin Turner

Hannah-Wade Powell

Katelin Turner, of Union City, was crowned Miss UT Martin at the combined Miss UT Martin/Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Pageant, Nov. 15. The UT Martin biology major won the 2009 title and the opportunity to compete in the Miss Tennessee Scholarship Pageant in June in Jackson. Also headed to the Miss Tennessee Scholarship Pageant is **Hannah-Wade Powell**, of Alamo, a UT Martin criminal justice major, who won the Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival title.

Current UT Online Degree Offerings:

- **Bachelor of University Studies (BUS)**

The BUS degree allows students to incorporate 60 hours or more of credit earned from an accredited post-secondary institution and earn up to 30 credit hours for experiential learning.

www.utm.edu/utonline/bus.php

- **Online Dual Enrollment**

UT Online plans to offer a collection of online courses to high school and home school students beginning in Summer 2009. Students meet high school requirements and earn college credit simultaneously.

www.utm.edu/utonline/dualenroll.php

- **M.S. in Agriculture & Natural Resources Systems Management**

The degree program is designed to meet the growing needs of agriculture and natural resources professionals. The MSANR curriculum is comprised of 36 hours of graduate course work and is offered exclusively via the Internet. The MSANR curriculum features three concentrations: Systems Science in Agriculture, Agricultural Education & Leadership, and Natural Resources Systems Management.

www.utm.edu/departments/caas/msanr/

- **M.S. in Education**

- Administration & Supervision**

This master's degree is available to individuals who obtained a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university and who are professionally licensed to teach. The program allows candidates to complete certification requirements for the beginning administrator as an initial step toward full credentialing as a professional administrator.

www.utm.edu/utonline/msedas.php

- Counseling-School & Community**

This master's degree is available to individuals who obtained a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university.

www.utm.edu/utonline/msed_counseling.php

- Geoscience Education**

This master's degree is available to individuals who obtained a bachelor's degree in education from an accredited college or university and who are professionally licensed to teach elementary or secondary education. The program is intended for teachers seeking advanced training in geoscience disciplines, such as geology, astronomy, meteorology, or general earth science. The program serves teachers who are interested in moving into geoscience education from another science content area, adding earth science or geology courses, or seeking to teach AP or dual-enrollment courses.

www.utm.edu/utonline/msed_geosci.php

- Special Education**

This master's degree is available to individuals who obtained a bachelor's degree in education from an accredited college or university and who are professionally licensed to teach elementary or secondary education. The curriculum allows candidates to complete the 37 credit-hour program with 18 credit hours in special education.

www.utm.edu/utonline/msed_special.php

- **M.S. in Family & Consumer Science**

This master's degree has two concentrations: General Family and Consumer Sciences and Dietetics. General Family and Consumer Sciences is generalist in nature and based on a selected range of comprehensive courses. The Dietetics concentration incorporates a Dietetic Internship Program (DI) which offers a post-baccalaureate, clinically based practicum. Students completing the DI portion are eligible to take the registration examination that leads to becoming a Registered Dietitian.

www.utm.edu/utonline/msfcs.php

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UT Martin is an Equal Opportunity Institution. The University of Tennessee at Martin does not discriminate on the basis of race, gender, color, religion, national origin, age, disability or Vietnam veteran status in provision of educational opportunities or employment opportunities and benefits. UT Martin does not discriminate on the basis of gender or disability in the education programs and activities which it operates, pursuant to requirements of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as codified in 42 U.S.C. 2000D; Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, Public Law 92-318; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Public Law 93-112; the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Public Law 101-336; and the Age Discrimination in Employment Act. This policy extends to both employment by and admission to the university. Inquiries concerning Title VI, Title IX, Section 504, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and the Age Discrimination in Employment Act should be directed to the Office of Equity and Diversity, 240 Gooch Hall, UT Martin, Martin, TN 38238-5002, 731-881-7202. Charges of violation of the above policy also should be directed to the Equity and Diversity Officer. E05-0425-00-001-09

Frances Hansbrough Yarbro, ('38) 90, of Dyersburg, died Sept. 30, 2008. She was retired as food-stamp supervisor for Dyer County Human Services. She received her education at the University of Tennessee Junior College in Martin and the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, where she earned a Smith-Hughes degree in home economics in 1940. She taught home economics in Wardell, Mo., and high school in Monroe, La. She had been a member of First United Methodist Church since 1945 and was also a volunteer with the Girl Scouts, Alice Thurmond PTA, UNICEF and American Field Service.

Sara Dickson, ('40) 87, of Vanleer passed away on July 17, 2008. She was a 1953 graduate of the University of Tennessee with a bachelor of arts in home economics and received a master's degree in education from the George Peabody College. She was a teacher at Houston County High School for many years and was an active member of Erin United Methodist Church.

Mildred McIntosh Ennis, ('40) 87, of Livingston, Ala., died July 30, 2008. She received a bachelor of science in home economics from the University of Tennessee in 1942 and a master's degree in education from Livingston State University in 1972. She worked for 22 years with the Alabama Cooperative Extension Service and was very active in her community.

James W. Workman ('53), 83, of Crossville, died Oct. 14, 2008. He was a World War II Marine Corps veteran and was in one of the first graduating classes of the University of Tennessee Martin Branch in 1953. He worked with the University of Tennessee Agricultural Extension Service as a county agent in Obion County and then as a county supervisor with the Farmer's Home Administration. He worked to provide all citizens of the county with an adequate and dependable source of water.

Bill Haney ('54), a popular radio sportscaster and longtime play-by-play announcer for UT Martin athletics, died Aug. 23, 2008, at his home in Milan. He was 78.

A pioneer in Tennessee sports broadcasting, Haney was credited as being the first to broadcast state tournament basketball games and, along with the late Monte Hale Sr., created the Tennessee Basketball State Network. He is also credited with starting the UT Martin Sports Network in 1978.

Besides his broadcast career with UT Martin, Haney was also the radio voice for the Milan High School Bulldogs and the Memphis Grizzlies of the World Football League. He was inducted as a sportscaster into three sports halls of fame: the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association in 1994, Gibson County as a charter member in 1995 and the UT Martin Athletics Hall of Fame in 2001.

Haney was active in civic affairs and held many public offices, including a term as Gibson County executive starting in 1986. He also received many community honors, including Jaycees Young Man of the Year in 1965 and Milan Chamber of Commerce Man of the Year in 1996.

Survivors include his wife, Peggy, two sons and a daughter, five grandchildren and two great-granddaughters. His sons, Terry and Tim, and his grandson, Adam, are all UT Martin graduates.

William (Bill) Staley Hensley Jr. ('66) 70, died Nov. 5, 2008, at his home in Knoxville. He was retired from the Foremost Insurance Co., officiated football for the Ohio Valley Conference and was a member of the Tennessee Army National Guard.

Ron Lewellen ('69), 66, died Sept. 16, 2008. Lewellen played defensive tackle on the UT Martin football team from 1964-66. He was a sixth-round draft selection of the Oakland Raiders in 1967 and was inducted into the UT Martin Athletics Hall of Fame in 1989. He was a former football coach, principal and was an insurance agent. He also was a former school board member, past president of Dresden Rotary Club, member of the UT Martin Ghost of the Gridiron, served on the UT Martin Alumni Council and was retired from the Tennessee Army National Guard.

Joseph Landrum Butler, M.D., ('73) 57, of Vestavia Hills, Ala., died Oct. 8, 2008. He was a 1973 graduate of the University of Tennessee at Martin and a 1976 graduate of the University of Tennessee College of Medicine. Following a fellowship at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Md., he began practice at the University of Alabama at Birmingham until leaving to begin his private practice in allergy and asthma. He was a member of Shades Mountain Baptist Church.

James Monroe "Jim" Glasgow, ('74), 88, of Union City died June 9, 2008, at Baptist Memorial Hospital-Union City.

Glasgow, who represented the State of Tennessee before the U.S. Supreme Court in a landmark case Baker vs. Carr that established the principle of one man, one vote, was born Feb. 17, 1920, in Weakley County. He earned his law degree from the University of Tennessee, after beginning his undergraduate work at the former UT Junior College at Martin. A World War II U.S. Army Air Corps veteran, he was a member of Union City Rotary Club and Pleasant Valley United Methodist Church in Union City. Glasgow began his private law practice in Dresden in 1948 and continued there until he was appointed assistant attorney general in 1952, an office he held until 1961.

As a member of Union City Rotary Club, he earned the club's highest honor and was named a Paul Harris Fellow. He had been a member of the University of Tennessee Development Council (1974) and the UT Alumni Board of Governors (1968-69). He was also instrumental in establishing the junior college at Martin as a four-year university: the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Gilbert Carp, of Martin, died Oct. 23, 2008, at Volunteer Community Hospital. He was 85. A member of the UT Martin faculty from 1969-1992, he was professor emeritus of music and composer-in-residence with theory/composition and clarinet as his main areas. He was the clarinetist for the University Trio from 1971-1988. He began his career as an instructor at Grunewald School of Music in New Orleans, La.; was orchestra and band director at the South Carolina School for the Blind in Spartanburg; assistant professor of theory and woodwinds at Converse College; and director of the school of music and associate professor at Centenary College in Shreveport, La. Among numerous compositions and premiers, was a Carp collaboration that resulted in "The Tennessee Witch," an opera parody of the Bell Witch Legend that premiered at UT Martin in the mid-1970s. Carp composed the music and conducted the orchestra for the production. He also represented the State of Tennessee as a composer and performer on the Kennedy Center bicentennial program and performed numerous recitals.





Dr. Larry T. McGehee, former UT Martin chancellor and longtime newspaper columnist, died Oct. 25 at his home in Spartanburg, S.C. He was 72. McGehee, who was an ordained Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) minister, served as UT Martin chancellor from 1971-79. Before becoming UT Martin chancellor,

he served five years in several executive positions at the University of Alabama. He left UT Martin to become special assistant to the president at UT Knoxville, a post he held until 1982. He served as vice president and professor of religion at Wofford College in Spartanburg from 1982 until his retirement.

"Many of us are saddened to hear about Dr. McGehee," said Dr. Tom Rakes, UT Martin chancellor. "Many of his initial efforts and campus priorities set the positive direction we still enjoy today."

UT Martin Chancellor Emeritus Nick Dunagan was hired by the university during the McGehee administration. "Larry McGehee was a dedicated leader who especially loved to interact with students and helped shape a student-centered culture at UT Martin," he said.

Dunagan recalled McGehee's final visit to Martin in spring 2005 when he signed copies of his book, "Southern Seen: Meditations on Past and Present." Dunagan said, "It was a magical visit, and little did we know that, for most of us, this would be our last opportunity to see him. We lost a wonderful man who left a major impact on the Martin campus."

McGehee's book was a collection of his newspaper columns about people, places and events in the South published by The University of Tennessee Press. At the time of McGehee's visit in 2005, his columns appeared in 100 newspapers in eight states.

McGehee received national attention in May 1972 by delivering a two-and-a-half minute, 250-word commencement address to University of Alabama graduates. Time magazine featured the speech in both its domestic and foreign editions.

Survivors include his wife, Elizabeth, and two daughters. **UTM**

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The world is changing rapidly and so are the needs of the university. With tightened public resources for higher education, we can no longer rely on state appropriations if we are to compete successfully. In order to meet the expectations of students, faculty, alumni and the community, we must expand the level of private support to the university.

The new **UT Martin Campus Fund** has been created to provide loyal alumni the opportunity to make a gift that will provide immediate benefits for their *alma mater*. By making a gift to the new Campus Fund, you can empower campus leaders by providing flexible resources that can be used to address the university's greatest needs as well as seize opportunities that strengthen our campus.

Alumni around the world received a special mailer to introduce the new fund. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this request for assistance. Your gift will

make a difference for UT Martin students and alumni and will help move us toward the goals we share for the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Donors of \$1,000 or more to the Campus Fund will be recognized as charter members of the Alumni Leadership Society and will be recognized in the next issue of *Campus Scene* and on a plaque in the UT Martin Alumni Center. **Charter member gifts must be received by Dec. 31, 2009.**

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Calendar of Events for Alumni

Basketball Alumni Reunion.....	February 14
Alumni Council Meeting	March 21
UT Martin Rodeo Days	April 16-18
2009 Grand Finale Celebration & Senior Walk	April 28
UT Alumni Association Executive Meeting	May 14-16
UT Junior College Reunion	June 5
UT Martin Legacy Luncheon.....	August 26

